

WATER DIRECTORATE news

MARCH 2014

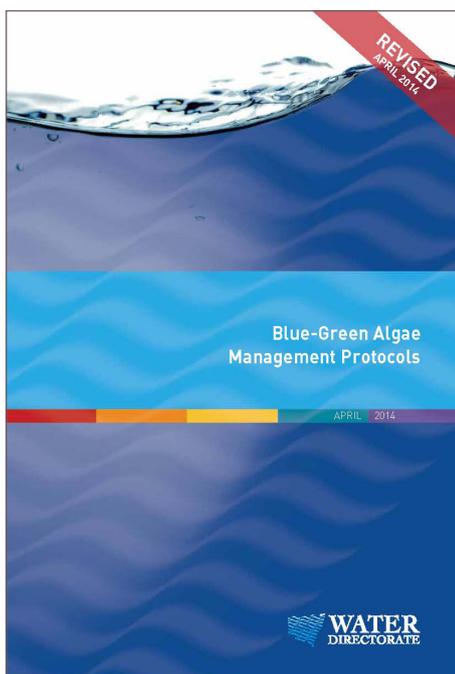
This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

- CivEnEx, exhibition for civil works, construction & infrastructure, Eastern Creek, 14 -15 May
- OzWater'14, Conference and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane 29 April - 1 May
- LGNSW Water Management Conference, Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, 25 - 27 August

UPDATE OF THE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS

The Water Directorate's latest guideline is being finalised and is expected to be issued in April. The updated protocol was produced by Adrian Farrant, Environmental Consultant under the peer review of our Water Subcommittee, to assist LWUs manage blue-green algae outbreaks.



This is the fourth version of this document since first publishing it in November 2001. The Water Directorate thanks Lee Bowling from NSW Office of Water and Katrina Wall from NSW Health for their review of this document.

LAST CALL FOR OZWATER'14 INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, BRISBANE, 29 APRIL - 1 MAY

Don't miss AWA's massive 3-day program featuring inspiring keynote speakers, 260 industry speakers across 8 all-inclusive conference streams, over 20 specialist workshops, technical tours and an innovation exchange.

See the latest products and services from leading exhibitors from 23 countries and enjoy a great social program including the always sold-out Gala Dinner and National Water Awards Ceremony. Purchase your ticket before they run out when you register as a full delegate. Register now at www.ozwater.org/register and see the latest program at www.ozwater.org/program

2014 LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE - LAST CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual Water Management Conference presents local government with a broad range of information, from a local government perspective, on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by LWUs.

This year the conference will be co-hosted by LGNSW and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council from

25 to 27 August 2014. Councils and other stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions for the conference program.

In particular, papers are invited on the main topics planned for the conference:

- Review of institutional arrangement for local water utilities in regional NSW
- Water recycling
- Drinking Water Quality Management

Papers are due 11 April. For further information go to www.lgnsw.org.au/waterconference or contact Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Officer on 02 9242 4045.

KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL WATER OPERATIONS TRAINING PROJECT WINS AWA NSW BRANCH PROGRAMME INNOVATION AWARD

Congratulations to the teamwork by Anne-Maree Burke, Manager Water Strategy from Kempsey Shire Council, Matt Giles from Hunter Valley Training Company (Mid Coast) and Murray Thompson from TAFE Lismore Campus for winning the AWA NSW Branch Programme Innovation Award 2013 for the project Combating the Skills Shortage: Grow our Own.

This award was presented at the NSW Branch Awards Dinner held in conjunction with AWA's Southern Regional Conference and Operators Workshop in March.

Having won this Award, the project will now be considered as part of AWA's National Awards to be announced at the OzWater'14 Conference Dinner in Brisbane.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK FOR WATER TREATMENT OPERATORS

Data reported by the NSW LWUs for 2012-13 indicates that the 91 NSW LWUs responsible for providing water treatment[#] have a total of 281 fully qualified water treatment operators* to operate the 154 LWU water treatment works and the 87 chlorinators/aerators in regional NSW (total 241).

In addition, a further 31 operators are qualified to operate the chlorinators and aerators⁺. The 2012-13 NSW Benchmarking Report, to be released in April 2014 by NOW, will show the number of qualified water treatment operators employed by each LWU.

Continuing professional development of operators is required, such as attending a NOW Water Treatment Update Seminar at least every 3 years. The above 312 operators meet the requirements of the National Certification Framework for Water Treatment Operators.

Excludes the 9 LWUs responsible for sewerage only and reticulators Cootamundra, Harden, Queanbeyan and Young, and Cobar Water Board which provide a bulk raw water supply (page ii of 2011-12 NSW Water Supply and Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report at www.water.nsw.gov.au)

* Such operators have a Certificate III in Water Operations (Water Treatment) or equivalent and are employed in operating a LWU water treatment works or a chlorinator/aerator (refer to page 23 of NSW Guidelines for drinking water management systems, NSW Health and NSW Office of Water, 2013 (www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Documents/NSW-Guidelines%20for-Drinking-Water-Management-Systems.pdf)).

+ Such operators have a NSW Office of Water Part 1 Certificate (Chemical Dosing Systems) or equivalent have also completed chlorine safety training and are employed in operating a LWU chlorinator/aerator (refer to page 23 of NSW Guidelines for drinking water management systems www.water.nsw.gov.au).

New item courtesy of NOW.

SCA AND THE STATE WATER CORPORATION MERGE TO FORM BULK WATER NSW

The NSW Government will consolidate the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) with the State Water Corporation to form Bulk Water NSW, a new efficient service provider for the State's water sector, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson announced on 4 March.

Ms Hodgkinson said.

"Bulk Water NSW will provide a focus on the most efficient way to transport water, certainty for food production and continuing attention to the health of drinking water – its creation is not about budget savings."

Ms Hodgkinson also said an interim common Board and Chief Executive Officer will operate across SCA and State Water Corporation during the implementation, with Mr Terry Charlton appointed as the inaugural Chair. For more information visit www.statewater.com.au or www.sca.nsw.gov.au.

News item courtesy Media Release 4 March from the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP Minister for Primary Industries Minister for Small Business

NEW FACT SHEET - WORKING ON WATERFRONT LAND

The January newsletter featured a news item on working on waterfront land. A brochure is posted with the hardcopy of this newsletter advising of the importance of protecting waterfront land.

Council staff can help direct landholders to NOW to obtain relevant approvals. For copies of the new fact sheet to provide to clients at your Council, contact Advisory Services at the Office of Water on 1800 353 104 or email information@water.nsw.gov.au.

The fact sheet plus information on controlled activity approvals is also available at www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-licensing/Approvals/Controlled-activities/Controlled-activities

NEW WATER DIRECTORATE CHAIRPERSON

Stewart McLeod stepped down as Chair of the Water Directorate Executive Committee at the March meeting. Stewart has been a tireless supporter and contributor to the Water Directorate since its inception a little over 15 years ago and has chaired the Executive Committee with the same vigour for almost 8 years – more than half of the association's existence.

Stewart has played a major role in the maturity of the Water Directorate and the NSW local government water industry. I thank Stewart for his leadership and assistance. I also thank Dubbo City Council and its General Managers over the past 15 years for allowing Stewart's involvement. We are pleased that Stewart will continue to serve on the Executive Committee.

I also take this opportunity to announce that Jeffery Sharp, Director Infrastructure and Asset Management at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council was elected unanimously as the new Chair. Jeff has served on the Executive Committee for twelve years.

Congratulations to Jeff and I look forward to working with him as we continue to elevate our profile and services to the NSW local government water industry.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2014 are:

- 8 May
- 10 July
- 11 September
- 12,13 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
© Copyright March 2014