

FEBRUARY 2018

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

PER- AND POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) EXPOSURE

A letter was sent by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to LWUs in December 2017 to highlight contaminated drinking water as a potential pathway for PFAS exposure. The following information from NSW Health complements the Australian Government's advice to further assist LWUs.

The EPA has established a PFAS investigation program and is prioritising sites around NSW where PFASs were used in significant quantities. The investigation is focussing on airports, firefighting training facilities and some industrial sites, particularly those sites where it is determined that there are exposure pathways to these chemicals through bore water usage, surface water usage or fishing.

Where the EPA investigation identifies a potential impact on drinking water, NSW Health would work with the water supplier concerned to assess the risk to public health and options to manage the risk (e.g. an alternative safe supply, or additional water treatment). Water supplies not impacted by contaminated sites are unlikely to contain levels of PFAS that would be of human health concern.

Councils should contact the EPA for further information on the PFAS investigation program. Testing of drinking

water is generally not recommended unless the supply is impacted by a known contaminated site.

[See this web link for the EPA investigation.](#)

[Click here to see the NSW Health Fact Sheet:](#)

Australian Government [health-based guidance on PFAS is available here.](#)

The NHMRC is currently developing a PFAS Fact Sheet for the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

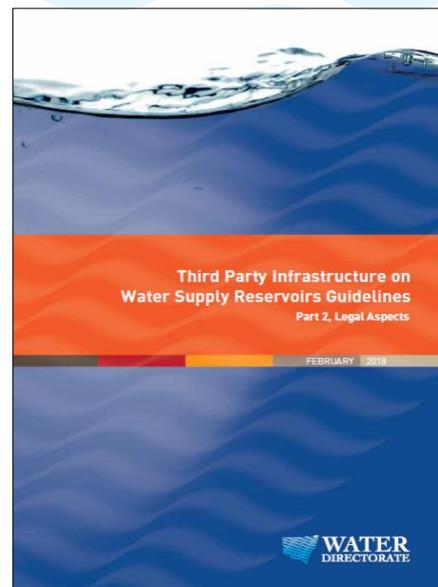
Item courtesy of NSW Health.

LATEST PUBLICATION: THIRD PARTY INFRASTRUCTURE ON WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS GUIDELINES - PART 2, LEGAL ASPECTS

Our latest publication was distributed in February. This document - *Part 2, Legal Aspects* is a companion document to *Part 1, Engineering Aspects* distributed to all member Councils in September 2017.

Part 2, Legal Aspects was written by Colin Biggers and Paisley to assist LWUs and all Australian water utilities in understanding the legal position of Telco Carriers under the Telco Act 1997.

A hard copy version can be purchased from our website bookshop for \$300.



These guidelines set out the legislative regime and guide LWUs to adopt a best practice framework that minimises risk to water supply operations through alternative locations and robust agreements. Template letters are annexed for negotiating with Carriers.

Executive Committee member Jason Ip from Riverina Water County Council will present a paper at the WIOA Conference in April titled *Co-existing with Telecommunication Carriers*.

INTERNATIONAL WATER CENTRE - NSW WATER LEADER SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Laljibhai Rathod, Operations Engineer at Kempsey Shire Council for winning the inaugural NSW Water Leader Scholarship,

part funded by the Water Directorate. This is the latest of six different water related awards that the Water Directorate proudly sponsors for member Councils.

Laljibhai advised that this program is customised for the water sector and is highly relevant to his current career path. Laljibhai is aiming to learn further about leadership development using the course material and from industry peers. This he believes will help him in his current role with Kempsey SC and his future in the water industry.

Laljibhai also advised that he was indeed very grateful for the support of the Water Directorate for approval of his partial scholarship and Kempsey SC for supporting him and allowing time and resources to attend this course for his personal development.

Item courtesy of IWC.

LAST REMINDER BEFORE NSW HEALTH'S 30 MARCH DEADLINE FOR LWUs TO SHARE A BRIEF ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW REPORT WITH YOUR LOCAL PHU

Drinking water management systems are an important tool in ensuring the safety of drinking water. The *NSW Guidelines for Drinking Water Management Systems* recommend that utilities review the effectiveness of the management system at least annually. This annual internal review should include critical control point performance, response to exceptions, and progress on actions and improvements.

LWUs are requested to share a brief annual internal review report (and where completed, any external audit or review) with their local Public Health

Unit. NSW Health has [templates for annual review reports available from this website](#).

A copy of the management system should also be provided if there have been any changes.

NSW Health will, as part of its submission on annual Performance Monitoring reports, provide to Crown Lands and Water the list of utilities that have submitted an annual review report.

To meet this timing, utilities should share their review report by 30 March 2018.

There is not a required date range for the twelve month period of the reports.

NSW Health has specialist contractors available to help LWUs implement their management systems and assist with annual reviews. Please contact your local Public Health Unit to request support. [For more advice on review and audit please see this web page.](#)

WATER DIRECTORATE PUBLICATIONS MADE AVAILABLE TO TAFE STUDENTS

An MOU between the Water Directorate and TAFE has made Water Directorate publications available to students in the NSW local government water industry. TAFE will provide an annual report on the uptake of this Initiative.

12TH ANNUAL WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, TAMWORTH, 11-12 APRIL

Last held in Tamworth in '12. Go to [this website for program & registration form](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **ANCOLD Dam Operators Forum**, Kununurra WA, 16-17 April
- **AWA Ozwater'18**, Australia's International Water Conference and Trade Exhibition, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, 8-10 May
- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**, Armidale, 3-5 September
- **IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference and Excellence Awards**, Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley, 7-9 November

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In 2018 the Chair's role has been handed over from Jeff Sharp to Wayne Beatty. The 2016 photo below shows Wayne at left receiving his medallion from Jeff for 15 years' voluntary service on the Executive Committee. Wayne has now logged 17 years on the Executive Committee and is the second longest serving member of the Executive Committee to date.



Meeting dates for 2018 are:

- Thursday, 8 March
- Thursday, 3 May
- Thursday, 12 July
- Thursday, 13 September
- Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

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