

WATER DIRECTORATE news

APRIL 2012

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.

WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM AT THE IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COFFS HARBOUR, 9 MAY

The Water Directorate will be facilitating a Water Forum at the IPWEA NSW conference on Wednesday 9 May. Please attend and support the five presenters by registering at: www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=38239

INNOVATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER AWARD AT THE IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COFFS HARBOUR, 8 MAY

This award is the longest running of the four awards that the Water Directorate sponsors throughout the year and was first presented in 2000. The award will be presented at the IPWEA NSW Engineering Excellence Awards dinner on Tuesday 8 May and we look forward to the announcement of the winner on the night.

UPDATE OF THE BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In April a revised edition of the 2008 guideline was distributed to member Councils. This edition was written to reflect updated Australian Standards, *AS/NZS 3100:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines* and *AS/NZS 5050:2010 Business Continuity – Managing disruption-related risk*. All Water Directorate technical publications can be purchased via the order form on our website.

LAUNCH OF THE RE-DEVELOPED NSW DRINKING WATER DATABASE

The re-developed NSW Drinking Water Database was launched for use on 1 May. All the results and information from the 'old' Database have been moved into the new version. You will be able to do all the things that you could do with the old Database, such as run reports, create sample sites and enter fluoride data.

The Database can be found at www.drinkingwaterdb.nsw.gov.au To get to the Database you will have to log into the Application Management System (AMS). For this you need a user account. So far about 460 accounts have been created for users.

If you use the Drinking Water Database and have not received a new user account please send an email to waterqual@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

The Database has been developed to work with a range of browsers: Internet Explorer Versions 7, 8 and 9, Firefox and Google Chrome. Some parts of the Database, particularly the reports, work best when using Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser.

If you need help when first using the Database please contact your local Public Health Unit or the NSW

Health Water Unit. More information, including the user manual, is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/water/drinking_water_database.asp

For any questions that you have about using the new version of the Database please contact your local Public Health Unit or the Water Unit.

LAST CALL FOR AWA OZWATER'12, SYDNEY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE, 8-10 MAY

Be part of Australia's most important annual event for the water industry organised by the water industry where the issues that drive the industry are discussed and future directions decided.

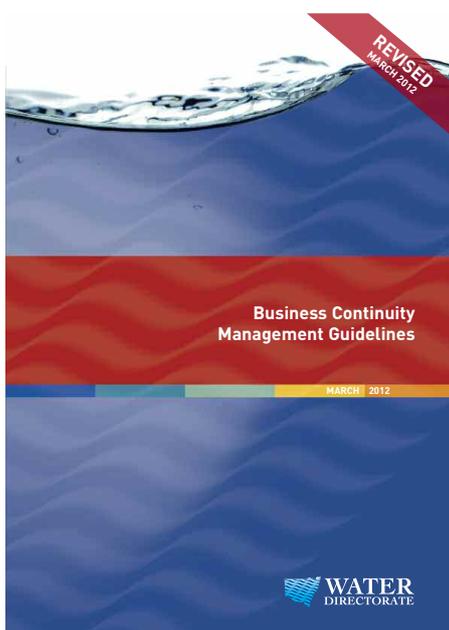
Ozwater'12 will feature great speakers, great papers plus great opportunities to network and socialise with industry leaders. For more information go to www.ozwater.org.

STATE OF THE WATER SECTOR SURVEY – ENTER NOW TO WIN GREAT PRIZES!

AWA and its research partner Deloitte are carrying out a survey of water sector participants' attitudes to the critical issues facing the sector.

Following on from the initial quantitative survey in late 2010 and qualitative survey in 2011, this survey will provide a comprehensive view of the state of the Australian water sector, rural and urban. We encourage all water professionals to complete the survey. Prizes for completing the survey are as follows:

- 1st prize:** Entry to OzWater'13 including three nights' accommodation and return economy flights from any Australian capital city;
- 2nd prize:** iPad 3; and



3rd prize: 12 months membership to AWA.

To complete the survey go to www.deloittedtermine.com/SPSSMR/ImageCache/ImageCache.aspx?project=AWADELWSS04L&file=default.htm

AUSTRALIAN DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES 2011

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) were updated in October 2011 by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMCC).

Please note that the 2011 version of the ADWG are only available electronically as a 5.9MB bookmarked PDF from www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/eh52.

The ADWG define the quality of water suitable for human consumption and provide advice on protecting water supplies. The risk-based Framework for Management of Drinking Water Quality remains central to the ADWG. Later this year, NSW Health will hold regional workshops to brief water utilities on the ADWG and the Public Health Act 2010. The main changes and revisions to the ADWG are:

- Chapter 6.3.2: Pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting chemicals (new)
- Chapter 9: Overview of monitoring (revised)
- Chapter 10: Monitoring for specific characteristics in drinking water (revised)
- Fact sheets: Microbial and toxins (6 new, 18 revised)
- Fact sheets: Chemical and physical (109 new, 32 revised)

OVERVIEW OF THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES

To assist our 96 member Councils to gain a quicker understanding of the 1,244 pages in the 2011 ADWG, the Executive Committee is preparing an Overview document that aims to:

- Provide a concise summary of the ADWG that can be easily understood by water supply authorities and allow them to quickly ascertain their level of compliance with the guidelines.
- Assist water supply authorities with due diligence assessments.
- Provide a comparison with the 2004 ADWG.

It is estimated that the Overview of the 2011 ADWG will be finalised in August for distribution to all member Councils. The Water Directorate has previously prepared overview documents for the 2004 and 1996 ADWG.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A Vacancy still exists on the Executive Committee for a representative from the Hunter group of Councils. I urge and invite interested senior water professionals from Singleton, Upper Hunter or Muswellbrook Shire Councils to consider attending a meeting as an observer on 7 May, 12 July, 13 September and 7, 8 November.

FAREWELL TO MIKE RAYNER

At the end of April Mike Rayner retired from the position of GM of Tweed Shire Council and stepped down from the Water Directorate Executive Committee after more than 13 years. Today few outside the Executive Committee know that Mike proposed the concept of an association of NSW LWUs fifteen years ago to counter the fragmentation of the NSW local government water industry and the loss of centralised guidance following the abolition of the NSW Public Works Department.

Mike's vision crystallised at a water conference at South Grafton in 1997. After forming a temporary Water Panel with the IPWEA's assistance, Mike and committed supporters contacted approximately 125 LWUs in 1997 and 1998 and convinced most to join a new technical advisory body which officially commenced in December 1998.

Mike was elected Chair and he steered the association for the early critical years in 1999 to 2001. Mike's legacy is a growing set of 30 technical publications and a technical advisory network across the state.

In addition, in 2005 Mike was one of three people who proposed the concept of the award winning NSW water loss management program to find and fix slow undetectable water leaks by sharing expertise and equipment resources.

Mike can also take some credit for the establishment of the QLD Water Directorate and the NSW Roads & Transport Directorate which are based on his model.

Mike has made an outstanding contribution to the NSW local govt water industry and will be greatly missed.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

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