

MARCH 2016

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 102 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER NOTCHES UP 15 YEARS' VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Congratulations to Wayne Beatty, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager at Orange City Council for his dedicated support of the Water Directorate. At the March Executive Committee meeting Wayne was presented with a 15 year medallion by Chair Jeff Sharp. Jeff thanked Wayne and Orange City Council for his input and advised that Wayne is only the fourth Executive Committee member to achieve this great milestone.



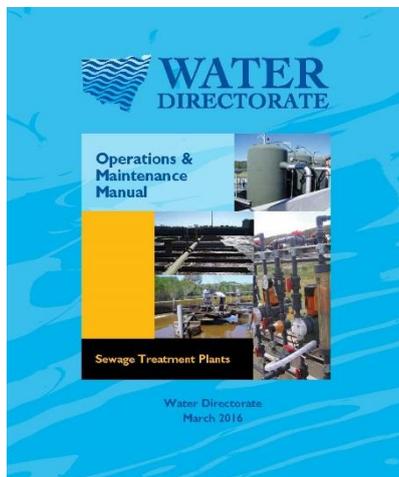
Wayne's first attendance at a Water Directorate meeting was in February 2001. He has attended close to 100 Executive Committee meetings and has had input into many of the Water Directorate's publications as both a member and Chair of the Water Sub-Committee.

NEXT PUBLICATION O&M MANUAL FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS

The updated O&M Manual for STPs will be distributed to our 97 member Councils in April superseding the original 2005 publication. When the O&M Manual for STPs was first published we advised that, at approximately 1,000 pages, it

set the benchmark as our largest publication which was unlikely to be matched. I'm pleased to advise that 11 years later we have set a new benchmark with this 2016 updated version which contains 3 new chapters on Odour Control, Bio P Removal and Compliance Testing.

We still consider the O&M Manual for STPs to be a unique document combining a template for producing an O&M Manual for your specific STP with multi treatment process text book information plus troubleshooting advice for operators.



Thanks to the NSW Public Works writers and the Water Directorate Executive Committee reviewers under Sewer Sub-Committee Chair Greg McDonald from Wyong Shire Council. Due to the size of the publication, we will mail out a folder with only introductory chapters printed plus a USB with all files. Using this manual will require printing of process chapters relevant to your STP.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

With the update of the mammoth O&M Manual for STPs completed we look forward to producing the following publications in 2016:

- **NEW** Specifications for Water Treatment Chemicals
- **NEW** Water Loss Management Toolkit – joint project with CENTROC
- **NEW** Review of Dams Safety Bill 2015
- **NEW** Landholders Guide – joint project with Rous Water County Council
- **NEW** Water Entitlement Management Guidelines
- **UPDATE** O&M Manual for Submersible SPSs combined with for O&M Manual for Wet and Dry Well SPSs
- **UPDATE** Drought Management Guidelines

DAMS SAFETY BILL 2015

The Dams Safety Bill 2015 replaces the Dams Safety Act 1978 and proposes that Dams Safety NSW will have the power to order a person to do such things that are necessary to ensure the safety of a dam, when the safety of the dam is in question. Importantly, Dams Safety NSW also has the power to issue stop work directions where Dams Safety is of the opinion that anything being done or proposed to be done may endanger the safety of the dam. These two powers are significant but equip the regulator with the means to properly ensure the safety of declared dams.

The bill recognises that there is a continuing need for emergency powers in situations where there is an immediate threat to public health or public safety or in situations where a dam has collapsed or is liable to collapse. It will remain business as usual for the Dams Safety Committee with implementation of the new Act expected to take some time. Dam owners will continue to be regulated under the existing Act until the new Bill is commenced.

Important points:

- The bill provides that dam owners must submit O&M, and emergency plans in accordance with a more compliance-based regulatory model.
- Dams Safety NSW will have the power to audit plans, and this power will be enhanced by the emergency management and dam operations and management expertise that will be available through the membership of Dams Safety NSW.
- The bill enables compliance notices to be issued where Dams Safety NSW is of the opinion that an owner of a declared dam has not met the requirements in relation to the dam safety standards or dam operations and management, and emergency management plans.
- These notices provide a useful mechanism by which Dams Safety NSW can require dam owners to address the failure to comply. In addition, Dams Safety NSW will also have the power to undertake an action specified in the compliance notice, if the owner has failed to take action, and to recover any costs from the owner.

LAST CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS FOR THE LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SUNDAY 28 – TUESDAY 30 AUGUST, BROKEN HILL

The conference, co-hosted by LGNSW and the Broken Hill City Council, will present a broad range of information on water management and the issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated local water utilities.

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to submit suggestions for the program. For further information contact Sascha Moege, Senior Policy Office on 02 9242 4045. Email: sascha.moege@lgnsw.org.au or [see website](#).

PAPERS DUE 15 APRIL.

BALLINA CELEBRATES WORLD WATER DAY ON 22 MARCH WITH RECYCLED WATER BREAKTHROUGH

On 22 March, Ballina Shire Council celebrated World Water Day through the theme 'water and jobs'. With drought continuing to impact regional NSW, Ballina Shire Council recently announced plans to deliver its ground-breaking recycled water service starting in July 2016.

Ballina Shire Council's first priority is to provide a recycled water service that is safe, available all year round and in times drought, and saves ratepayers money off their water charges. Ballina Shire Council has invested \$85 million in the Ballina-Lennox Head Recycled Water Master Plan to roll-out recycled water services to households, businesses, sporting fields, parks and public lands. For more information visit [the website](#).

AWA Ozwater'16 INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, MELBOURNE, 10-12 MAY

Ozwater is Australia's international water conference and trade exhibition, and is run annually by the Australian Water Association. This highly regarded event has built a strong reputation for being the leading event on the calendar for water industry professionals and those with a commercial interest in water. Ozwater'15, attracted over 3,000 participants.

Ozwater is an event like no other, organised by the water industry where issues that drive the water industry are discussed and future directions decided. Ozwater'16 features inspirational international and national keynote speakers, numerous invited speakers, scientific and technical papers, case studies, workshops and poster sessions. For registration details go to [the website](#).

LAST CALL FOR ANCOLD DAM OPERATORS FORUM, WODONGA, 27-28 APRIL

The full day program on 27 April includes a line-up of national speakers. The forum on 27 April is followed by a forum dinner and a full day tour of Hume and Dartmouth Dams on 28 April. For more information, see [the website](#).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2016 are:

- 5 May
- 14 July
- 8 September
- 9, 10 November

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

© Copyright March 2016