

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## OCTOBER 2015

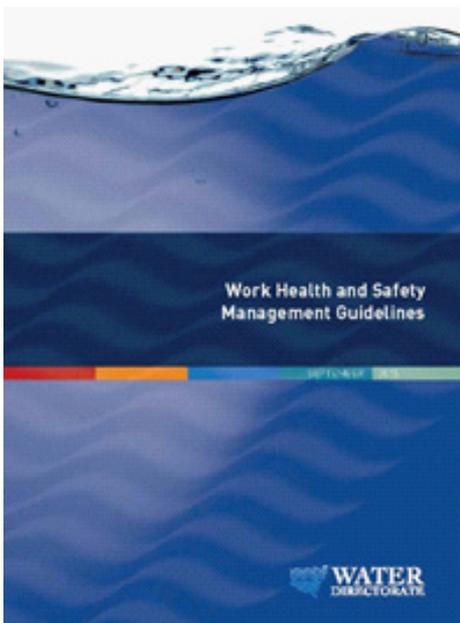
*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

A handful of member Councils are still to re-join in order to receive the latest publications such as the new WH&S Management Guidelines announced in the following news item.

### WATER DIRECTORATE LATEST PUBLICATION – WH&S MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In October a copy of the updated WH&S Guidelines was distributed to our paid up member Councils. The WH&S Management Guidelines is reformatted as a stand-alone document whereas it was previously a section within all 11 of our O&M Manuals. When each O&M Manual gets updated in future, the WH&S section will refer to the new stand-alone WH&S Management Guidelines.



### UPDATE ON THE LAUNCH OF CADASTRE NSW

Further to the item in last month's newsletter, the vision and strategic roadmap for Cadastre NSW have now been endorsed. This provides the opportunity to dramatically change the way land and related spatial information, such as water infrastructure location information, is managed to realise greater efficiency in the development of land in NSW.

The Water Directorate hopes to provide representation on the Cadastre NSW Working Group. A meeting was held in October and meetings are expected to be held on a quarterly basis. The role of the working group will initially be to guide the development of a whole of Government business case and help facilitate stakeholder engagement. Later on, it is likely the group will be tasked with determining program priorities and make investment decisions for the development of Cadastre NSW. LPI's Cadastre 2020 program will initially undertake or coordinate most of the tasks and report back to the working group on progress.

For more information contact:  
Adrian White, Program Manager –  
Cadastre 2020

Information Sourcing

Land and Property Information,  
Dept of Finance, Services &  
Innovation, phone 02 8258 7521.

### WRAPUP FROM THE IPWEA (NSW DIV), ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS

In October it was my pleasant duty to present the Category 3 Award for Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater at the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala Dinner to Nambucca Shire Council representatives (above, from left to right, Richard Spain, myself, Cr Rhonda Hoban, Mayor, and Paul Gallagher) for the Bowraville Off-River Water Storage.

The Highly Commended award was presented to Kempsey Shire Council representatives Anne-Maree Burke and Lalji Rathod (pictured below) for the South Kempsey Pump Station Refurbishment.



Congratulations to the above two Councils and staff and to Riverina Water County Council, Dubbo City Council and CPE & Associates for nominating in this Category Award. This award was initiated in 1999 by the Executive Committee and has been sponsored by the Water Directorate since 2000.

## WATER COMPETITION HELD AT WIOA WATER INTEREST DAY, GUNNEDAH

In October the winning water taste samples from Tasmania, Queensland, Victoria, NSW and South Australia went up against one another in the Best Tap Water competition. Gunnedah residents were invited to taste test the five finalists in the first national search to find Australia's top drop.

Congratulations to all the state winners for competing and to the winner, Marysville in Victoria. Marysville will now represent Australia at the international championships at Berkeley Springs in West Virginia in February 2016.

## TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR RECYCLED WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

DPI Water has developed new guidance and supporting information for LWUs seeking approval for new or existing recycled water schemes. To facilitate the approvals process and promote the safe management of recycled water schemes, DPI Water is offering one-day training workshops in the following regional locations:

- Wed 11th November  
Port Macquarie
- Wed 18th November  
Sydney, UTS Arial Centre

The workshops are free to LWU and related government participants and a nominal fee of \$200 will apply to non-government participants, space permitting. Please register by [emailing here](#).

For more information contact Nanda Altavilla, on 02 9842 8270 or [via email](#).

## CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

A special update of the climate outlooks has been released due to a significant shift towards drier conditions nation-wide, related to the emerging positive Indian Ocean Dipole reinforcing the strong El Niño. Very low rainfall has been received over the past 12 months in the southwest of WA, southeast SA and most of Victoria.

November and December are likely to be drier than average across the southeast and northeast, with parts of central Australia likely to be wetter than average. Warmer days and nights are likely for Australia, except the northern tropics. Item courtesy of BOM.



## WORLD TOILET DAY WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

World Toilet Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2013 as a day to raise awareness of the importance of sanitation.

"In Australia having a day all about toilets may seem funny. But for millions of people around the world it's no laughing matter.

"A shocking one in three of the world's population do not have access to a safe and private toilet," said Mr Paul Nichols, WaterAid Australia Chief Executive.

"Many people have no choice but to face the indignity of going to the loo in the open, where they are exposed to disease and vulnerable to harassment and even attack. It's a serious issue that can be hard to talk about – so we want to overcome our embarrassment and get the nation talking about toilets," said Mr Nichols.

The Water Directorate encourages our 97 member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision.

Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter via their [website](#).

## NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2016 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Managers who wish to reward their dedicated operators who do great work protecting public health are urged to nominate their staff by 19 February 2016 to be Operator of the Year.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 10th Annual WIOA Conference on 7 April 2016 in Newcastle.

In addition, the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG) New Zealand conference.

The nomination form should be returned to Gary Mitchell by Friday 19 February 2016. We encourage all member councils to consider nominating one of your operators for this prestigious award. Please use the [online form](#) provided and adhere to the word limit for each section. Previous nominees are also welcome to renominate.

## FAREWELL TO ELOISE STANLEY

Eloise has resigned after a long involvement with the Water Directorate from its inception and establishment through to present times. Eloise set up membership, administration and IT systems, produced publications as well as numerous other behind-the-scene tasks.

Eloise will be greatly missed. The Executive Committee and myself thank Eloise for her tireless work and wish her all the best for her future endeavours

We welcome Juliet Cobb to the Water Directorate to take on communication and publication roles.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The remaining meeting dates in 2015 are 11, 12 November to hold a Planning Meeting, AGM and an Executive Committee Meeting.

Gary Mitchell

Executive Officer

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