

## JULY 2019

*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.*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Hello everyone and welcome to the July edition of our newsletter.

Issues we are have been working through this month on behalf of our members have included:

- Drought updates from Bureau of Meteorology and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.
- All options on the table – progressing consideration of recycled water for drinking as an option.
- LGNSW's LWU Policy agenda through the Policy Advisory Group.
- Our relationship with other associations – WSAA, qldwater and AWA.
- Water industry training
- Prioritisation of upcoming Water Directorate technical projects.
- Reform of water industry frameworks and regulations.

As always, we will keep you up to date on progress in future editions.

### DROUGHT UPDATE

The [latest information from BOM](#) indicates that the drought in the Murray Darling Basin is now 'the most severe in 120 years of records'.



The Australian Water Association wrote a good summary of the situation in [Water Source](#), covering numerous regional NSW towns.

### SMART WATER ADVICE

Many Councils in NSW are already aware and subscribe to [Smart Approved WaterMark](#).



Did you know that they have numerous tools and services for utilities, councils and businesses with [Smart Water Advice](#)?

If you're not a subscriber, have a look at this [video](#), give Smart WaterMark CEO Chris Philpott a ring on 02 9223 3322 or [email him](#).

If your local water utility is into social media, you can encourage your customers to enjoy shorter showers with this list of [Bathroom Beats](#), a list of songs less than four minutes on Spotify, courtesy of Queensland Urban Utilities.

### DEPARTMENTAL RESHUFFLE

Since the NSW state election, the Government has changed the agency structure relevant to water industry. The planning, industry and environment functions are now incorporated in one cluster as the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). This includes the former NSW Office of Local Government, which will no longer be an 'Office' in the reshuffle.

Former Hunter Water Managing Director Dr Jim Bentley has taken up the new role as NSW's Chief Water Officer.

### LEAKAGE MANAGEMENT

It was interesting to listen to Dr Bentley speak at an AWA breakfast recently after he was appointed about the social licence we need to have with our customers,

particularly during time of water scarcity.

As we ask our customers and community to conserve water, Councils and water utilities need to be doing their best to minimise water loss through leakage detection and repair, as well as managing water carefully on our parks and public open spaces.

Water Services Association of Australia has recently released an excellent publication on [Water Leakage](#).



We also have water loss toolkits for operators co-branded with CENTROC, available for [free download for members](#) or through our [online Bookshop](#).

#### IN THE NEWS

- [Commonwealth government increases drought funding](#)
- [How can we better drought-proof our communities? Bruce Logan Tamworth Regional Council on ABC radio](#)

#### IPART REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR

Last month we confirmed IPART's release of its reviews of NSW local government.

In response the NSW Office of Local Government has launched a [Consultation process](#), and is encouraging Councils to submit their feedback on reporting and compliance burdens by **25 October 2019**.

#### TELCOS ON TANKS

The Water Directorate has been working with the Powers and Immunities Reference Group to discuss the impacts of telecommunications facilities on our ability to deliver safe drinking water. If you have a 'telco' facility attached to your tank, we'd like to hear from you. Please [email me](#) with the details.

#### LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

If you haven't already booked to attend, the [LGNSW Water Management Conference](#) is the perfect opportunity to bring technical staff and elected representatives together with our key water industry regulators to generate ideas and solutions. Keeping Councillors informed on current water issues is imperative for good decision-making. It's also good for Councillors and staff to build rapport and trust.

Our Executive Committee will meet for a pre-conference

workshop on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at a venue to be confirmed.

The Water Directorate Forum is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019. Topics will include:

- Water sector engagement with BOM
- Regional water strategies
- Safe and Secure Water Program
- LWU Performance Reporting
- Telcos on Tanks update
- Pipelines crossing railway corridors
- Industry training needs.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **AWA NSW State Conference**  
Orange 8-9 August
- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**  
Albury, 2-4 September
- **12th National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference**  
Perth, 16-19 September
- **IPWEA (NSW Div) Annual Conference**  
Hunter Valley, 6-8 November

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Remaining meeting dates for 2019 are:

- Thursday 12 September
- Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November

Brendan Guiney  
Executive Officer  
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