

## AUGUST 2018

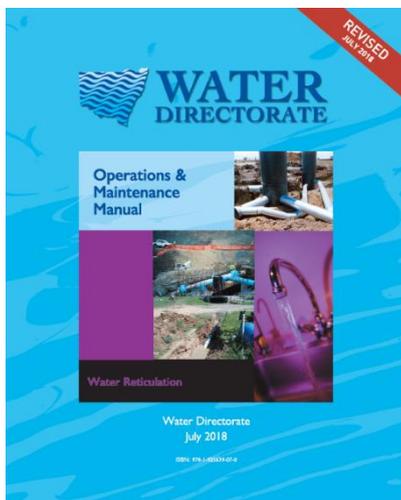
This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 18/19

In June invoices were sent out to member Councils. Many thanks to the 60+ member Councils that have rejoined promptly so far.

### LATEST PUBLICATION: O&M MANUAL FOR WATER RETICULATION UPDATE

This updated O&M Manual is being issued in August. This publication has been updated in accordance with the Water Directorate's policy of keeping our publications as practical, useful and relevant as possible. First distributed in 2001 and updated in 2003, this latest version was compiled by Mike Brearley and Associates with input from the Executive Committee.



### NEXT PUBLICATIONS

Over the remainder of 2018 we plan to issue the following publications:

- *O&M Manual for Sewer Reticulation, UPDATE*
- *Building in the Vicinity of Trunk Water Mains Guidelines, NEW*

### WHICH NSW LWU WILL WIN THE SAM SAMRA AWARD FOR IMPROVEMENT IN BEST PRACTICE SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2018?

In the Water Directorate Forum in 2016 at the LGNSW Water Management Conference at Broken Hill, delegates unanimously supported the suggestion that a memorial award be established following the tragic passing of Sam Samra (pictured below) just 10 days before the conference.



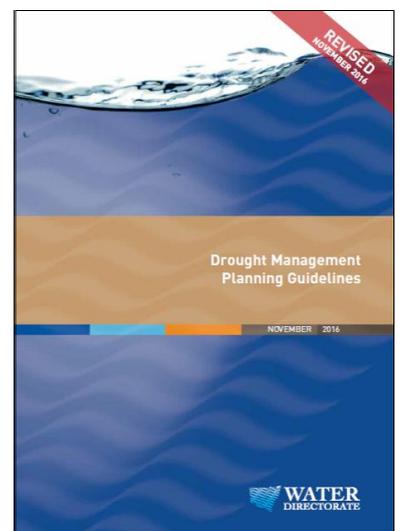
In 2017 LGNSW, DoI Water and the Water Directorate created an annual memorial award to honour the great work done by Sam Samra over his long career. The Water Directorate hosts the Sam Samra Award on our website.

A highlight of the 2017 LGNSW Water Management Conference was the inaugural presentation of the Sam Samra Awards at the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo. The award embodies and recognises improvement in best practice service delivery by LWUs.

The winners were determined by DoI Water's rigorous analysis of a decade of data from the NSW Water Supply & Sewerage Performance Monitoring Report. In 2018 a single winner was chosen by considering the projects undertaken and the improvements delivered. See the next page for more details of the LGNSW Water Management Conference.

### DROUGHT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES REMINDER

2018 finds NSW sadly in the grip of a serious drought again. Today's situation reminds us of the "Millennium Drought" which occurred in 2001 to 2009 and devastated communities, industries and the environment. When it became apparent that this previous drought was serious, the Water Directorate held a 2 day workshop in September 2003 in conjunction with AWA and subsequently produced our *Drought Management Guidelines, December 2003*.



In order to help member Councils be better prepared in future the Water Directorate engaged HydroScience and WaterOz to produce an updated version of the *Drought Management Guidelines*. This updated guideline was distributed to member Councils at the end of November 2016.

This updated publication reflects changes in drought management since our original December 2003 guidelines were produced. The 2016 publication includes a USB containing a Drought Management Plan template to enable members to customise the plan to meet their own requirements. All Water Directorate publications are available free to member Councils by [logging in](#) and going to the Bookshop.

#### **LAST CALL FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, ARMIDALE, 3-5 SEPTEMBER**

The Water Directorate Executive Committee hopes to see you at the Armidale Ex-Services Memorial Club in the first week of September. At least 13 of the Executive Committee members will be attending the LGNSW conference this year.

The Water Directorate sponsors the Conference Dinner, co-presents the Sam Samara Memorial Award and facilitates the Water Manager's Forum on behalf of LGNSW. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the Water Directorate has facilitated the Water Manager's Forum commencing in Taree in 2003.

The Conference Program is an interesting and thought provoking mix of water policy and technical issues in presentation and discussion panel format. Come and join

with your peers in an informal setting.

Speakers include Paul Byleveld, Sandy Leask and Josh Tickell from NSW Health; Michael Blackmore from Dol Water and Melissa Gibbs from Office of Local Government.

Key themes are:

- **The future of urban water reform**  
The Minister for Regional Water, Shadow Minister for Water, Infrastructure Australia and the Productivity Commission will challenge delegates with their views on the way forward
- **Technology and innovative infrastructure solutions**  
Learn about new and emerging technologies and local infrastructure case studies
- **Water quality and sustainable water management**  
Explore how to implement a preventive risk-based approach; manage during sustained periods of drought and find options for domestic water supply in non-reticulated areas
- **Managing risks in the water industry**  
Information will encompass strategic, operational and occupational risks.

[Register online here.](#)

#### **YOUR INPUT IS VALUED AT THE WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM AT ARMIDALE**

This year's forum at the LGNSW Water Management Conference will feature a workshop to evaluate the Water Directorate's Strategic Business Plan. We will be seeking comments and advice from the attendees.

The Water Directorate will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2018 and it is very timely to review our past in order to plan for the future. External reviews of the Water Directorate's Strategic Business Plan were previously carried out at our 5 and 15 year anniversaries.

The Water Directorate engaged the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Centre for Local Government, Government, UTS to conduct the review. Thanks to the 75% of NSW LWUs that responded to the survey in July about our performance and achievements. Professor Roberta Ryan from UTS will discuss the Survey responses with Water Forum attendees to seek further feedback.

#### **WORLD WATER WEEK 26-31 AUGUST**

World Water Week is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. It has been organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991. In 2018, World Water Week will address the theme "Water, ecosystems and human development".

Last year over 3,300 people and 380 organisations from 135 countries participated. Experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals attended to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to achieve a water wise world.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting dates for 2018 are:

- Thursday, 13 September
- Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 November

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
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