

WATER DIRECTORATE news

NOVEMBER 2014

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.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2015 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award again which recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. Managers of NSW operators who have the abovementioned qualities are urged to nominate their staff by 20 February 2015.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 9th Annual WIOA Conference on 26 March 2015 in Orange - see also next item.

In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG) New Zealand conference in Blenheim from 6–8 May 2015.

As in previous years there will be a tour of a number of water and wastewater treatment systems from 1–9 May 2015 (dates and tour program being confirmed at present). For more details see: www.waterdirectorator.asn.au

More information about this award can be found in the [report](#) presented by the 2014 Operator of the Year, Todd Pattison, from Wyong Shire Council.

2015 WIOA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, ORANGE, 25 – 26 MARCH

The 9th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference will once again be held in Orange at the PCYC.

Paper abstract submissions operators. Contact George Wall for the details on 03 5821 6744 or go to www.wioaconferences.org.au/documents/NSW2015.

The registration details and conference program will be available soon.

The popular Water Taste Test will be held again in 2015. To find out which council has the best tasting water in NSW, please send your water samples to the conference with your delegates. The test is a fun way of promoting friendly rivalry and we look forward to getting entries from as many LWUs as possible.

WIOA is a national association with a primary role of facilitating the collection, development and exchange of quality information between people undertaking operational roles in the water industry.

If you're an operator, manager, engineer, consultant or professional

or someone who is working in the water industry or just has an interest in water, then this is a must attend industry event.

2014 GREEN GLOBE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the NSW council winners and finalists that were among the twenty five NSW organisations and individuals honoured at the 2014 Green Globe Awards gala event held at NSW Parliament House.

NSW Environment Minister and host of the awards, the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, congratulated the award winners, recognising their environmental excellence, leadership and innovation.

Winners included joint winners of the inaugural Natural Environmental Award were Tweed Shire Council for helping save vulnerable koalas in Northern NSW and Sydney Fungal Studies Group for saving endangered fungi in Lane Cove Bushland Park.

The Green Globe Awards show that organisations or projects of any size can invest in sustainability and generate environmental, social and economic benefits for the community.

The three major awards of the night had special significance, Gosford City Council won the Regional Sustainability Award for their stormwater reuse scheme designed to conserve valuable Central Coast drinking water.

The property group Mirvac and Wagga Wagga City Council received 10-year Sustainability Achievement Awards for their ongoing



commitment to the environment. To see the full list of winners and highly commended recipients go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes.

NEW PROJECTS UPDATE

The Executive Committee is keen to hear from you. Please email your strategic project suggestions to gmitchell@waterdirectorat.asn.au. Your suggestions will be considered in March.

NSW BEST-PRACTICE SEMINARS, COFFS HARBOUR 8-9 DECEMBER, WAGGA WAGGA 11-12 DECEMBER

The inaugural series of best-practice seminars commence with a half day Overview Session recommended for mayors, councillors, GMs and finance directors. The full seminars are recommended for engineering directors, water and sewerage managers, engineers and staff involved with urban water.

These seminars are structured as a forum for engaging urban water industry leaders in regional NSW for driving productivity improvement and continuing NSW leadership in developing and implementing appropriate, affordable and cost-effective water supply and sewerage services.

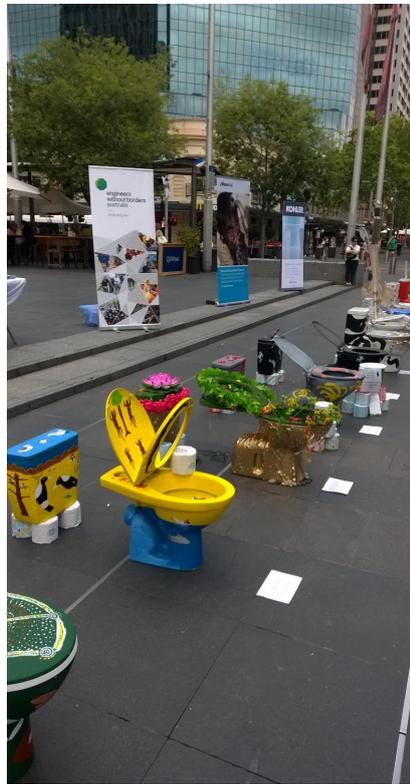
The seminars will also address the requirements of and the tools, systems and processes developed to achieve best practice.

The Overview Session is free and includes lunch. The full 2-day seminar costs \$590 per person and includes lunch and dinner. It is strongly recommended that you attend these sessions by registering early. Please contact Roshan lyadurai on Roshan.lyadura@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

WATERAID SUPPORT

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

The need to focus on toilets is crucial because - shockingly - 2.5 billion people do not have access to a toilet. Having no access to a



safe, private toilet means that one in every three people in the world have 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.

This year to mark the importance of World Toilet Day, WaterAid and Engineers Without Borders unveiled an installation of 25 outrageously decorated toilets at Circular Quay. Situated outside Customs House the toilets were on view to all passersby for three days in November.

In recognition of WaterAid's outstanding sanitation programs in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea, the Water Directorate recently resolved to make a donation of \$10,000 to WaterAid.

The Water Directorate encourages our 97 member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision. Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's newsletter by going to www.wateraid.org.au

PARLIAMENT PASSES THE WATER INDUSTRY COMPETITION AMENDMENT (REVIEW) BILL 2014

NSW Parliament passed the Water Industry Competition Amendment (Review) Bill 2014 on 14 October 2014 (now the Amending Act). The Amending Act can be viewed at the NSW legislation website and the

Hansard transcripts can be viewed at the Parliament of NSW website.

Before amendments to the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (WIC Act)* can commence, the Metropolitan Water Directorate with assistance from IPART will review the Water Industry Competition (General) Regulation 2008 to support the new framework established by the Amending Act. The review will consider matters including, but not limited to:

- licensing and scheme approval processes
- last resort regime
- customer protection measure
- exemptions and transitional arrangements

This next phase of the review will provide further opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the provisions that underpin the WIC framework. For further enquiries, contact the Metropolitan Water Directorate, DPI at urbanwaterreview@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS & ELECTIONS

The final meetings for the year including the AGM were held in November. This year the Annual Planning Meeting was deferred to March 2015 because a half day workshop on Local Water Utilities Regulations was organised to discuss opportunities to include amendments that are satisfactory to LWUs in the revision of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The Executive Committee's current two year term ceases at the end of 2014 and General Managers of member Councils were invited in November to nominate a representative from their council.

Elections will be conducted in December if more nominations than vacancies are received in any of the 9 groups of Councils. The new Executive Committee

will be finalised in December and announced in the December newsletter.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

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