

NOVEMBER 2017

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

HAVE YOUR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HIT ROAD BLOCKS?

Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro have appointed Former Australian Army Chief Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie AC DSC CSM to the role of Regional Infrastructure Coordinator, to advise the Government on how to deliver in the most efficient and effective way key local infrastructure projects **with a focus on the regions.**

LTGEN Gillespie's assistant gave a presentation to the Water Directorate's November Executive Committee meeting, explaining that the Regional Infrastructure Coordinator has visited a number of regions in order to hear at first-hand what is preventing local infrastructure projects from progressing. GMs can submit their infrastructure priorities in the areas of **water security, development and health** to LTGEN Gillespie via the Premier [at this address.](#)

"We're delighted that LTGEN Gillespie has agreed to work with the Government to **identify and overcome any roadblocks** to the roll-out of our local infrastructure program." Ms Berejiklian said.

LATEST PUBLICATION: REPORT ON SMART METERING TECHNOLOGY

In November we completed our 81st project by distributing the abovementioned

publication. Our *Report on Smart Metering Technology* was prepared by WaterGroup.



TOWERING CONCERNS

Our next publication is titled *Third Party Infrastructure on Water Supply Reservoirs Guidelines – Part 2, Legislative Aspects*. This highly anticipated publication produced by Colin Biggers and Paisley, is a companion document to *Part 1, Engineering Aspects* which was distributed to all member Councils in September.

This **Part 2, Legislative Aspects** Guide is primarily designed to assist LWUs in understanding the legal position of Telco Carriers under the *Telecommunications Act 1997*. It outlines the source of a Carrier's powers to enter land and install and/or maintain Low Impact Facilities. It sets out each of the Carrier's various rights

and responsibilities, including notice requirements and management of impact, so that LWUs can identify where a Carrier's action or inaction is outside of its powers under the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

The Guide illustrates the interaction of the principles it sets out through a number of case studies, in order to assist LWUs in applying these legal principles to real life issues, and adopting the best practices for managing proposed telecommunication facility installations and maintenance. Annexed to this Guide are a number of template letters which can be used in negotiating and dealing with Carriers.

EUROBODALLA WINS AGAIN

Eurobodalla won the Innovation in Water Supply & Wastewater Award for a second year in a row. In November IPWEA NSW held their annual Environment Awards at The Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley. The Water Directorate is very pleased to have sponsored this award since 2000.

The 2017 Water Supply & Wastewater Award goes to Eurobodalla Shire Council for the *Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Pressure Sewerage Scheme*. The project required innovative construction techniques to overcome the challenging bushland environment and social constraints of identified endangered ecological

communities, aboriginal sites and very steep terrain. It was my pleasant duty to present the award to Royce Toohey, Support Services Engineer on behalf of Eurobodalla Shire Council



Congratulations also to the two Highly Commended recipients: Narrabri Shire Council and Shoalhaven City Council for *the Baan Baa Water Supply Project*, and *the Porters Creek Dam Upgrade*, respectively. Papers on both of these projects were presented in Water Stream 2A. Well done to IPWEA (NSW) for another very successful conference attended by 341 staff and delegates.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2018 WIOA 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 23 February 2018 to be *Operator of the Year*.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 12th Annual WIOA Conference at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC) on 12 April 2018. The winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend the WIOG New Zealand conference.

Here is [the nomination form](#).

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM UPDATE

In November an Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program Steering Committee Meeting was held to review progress to October. Sixty two Aboriginal communities meet the criteria and are eligible for funding under this program. As a result of this program, these communities with a population in excess of 6,000 people are now receiving water and sewer at a higher level than before the program.

Approvals have been for capital, backlog maintenance, emergency repairs and special purpose works at 42 Aboriginal communities. A health outcome evaluation is being undertaken by NSW Health. \$53.73 million has been spent to the end of October 2017. The total value of approvals to the end of June 2017 is \$61.42 million which includes management and delivery costs.

OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The three NSW Health laboratories that provide testing for the NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program will close on Friday 22 December and reopen Tuesday 2nd January. Please share these dates with all staff involved in water monitoring. Contact your local PHU to arrange urgent testing, if it is needed during this period.

For **NSW FASS (NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service)** and **Pathology North (Lismore)** please submit samples by Thursday 21 December for testing before Christmas. For **Pathology West (Wagga)**, please submit samples by Wednesday 20th December for testing before Christmas.

RISK OF AMOEBIC MENINGITIS (*Naegleria fowleri*)

NSW Health has new fact sheets on the risk of amoebic meningitis (*Naegleria fowleri*) for water utilities and for households. Utilities should regularly monitor water temperature and chlorine residual throughout the entire distribution system. Any water supply that seasonally exceeds 30°C or continually exceeds 25°C can support the growth of *Naegleria*.

Water supplies at risk of *Naegleria fowleri* must ensure adequate primary disinfection (C.t >30 mg/L min) and maintain a chlorine residual of at least 0.5 mg/L at all times, in all parts of their network to avoid potentially fatal amoebic meningitis. Beginning in 2018, NSW Health requests that utilities record water temperature on Drinking Water Monitoring Program labels for all microbiology samples.

For more information see [NSW Health's website here](#).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In November the Water Directorate held its Annual Planning Meeting, AGM, and 2 monthly Executive Committee Meeting thereby completing the last 3 of our series of 7 meetings for the year. 2018 will be the second year of the current two year term of the Executive Committee. 2018 will be the Water Directorate's 20th year providing technical advice to NSW LWUs.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer

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