

WATER DIRECTORATE news

JULY 2012

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

Membership fees are now due for 2012/13 and invoices were sent out in July. The Executive Committee resolved that fees be increased by CPI in order to keep pace with inflation.

The benefits of membership include networking opportunities with your peers in all 97 member Councils via the discussion forum and through technical publications such as the soon to be released *WTP Guidelines for Residuals Reuse and Backwash Water Reclamation* and the *Summary of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*. Thanks to the 35 member Councils that have rejoined so far.

DAM SAFETY WORKSHOP SYDNEY, 14 SEPTEMBER

Local Water Utilities own over one third of the 300 plus prescribed dams in NSW and six LWUs collectively own 32 prescribed dams.

NSW LWU dam owners are invited to attend a one day Dam Safety Risk Management Workshop to be hosted by the Water Directorate on Friday 14 September at the Medina Grand Harbourside in Sydney.

The workshop will cover a range of important issues for dam owners including:

- Overview of legislative requirements and risk management
- Dam safety emergency management plans and training requirements
- Case studies by staff from Orange City Council and Bathurst Regional Council
- Dam safety inspection system

All LWU dam owners are strongly encouraged to attend and familiarise yourselves with the risk management regime introduced by the NSW Dam Safety Committee in 2009.

To register, use the flyer included with this newsletter mail-out or download the registration form and fax it back before 31 August. Registration is gratis for Water Directorate member Councils.

WRAP UP FROM THE 2011 LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the LGSA team and both Wagga Wagga City Council and Riverina Water County Council for conducting a successful July conference. Presentations from the conference are now available on the LGSA's website.

The Water Directorate enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the conference by facilitating the interactive Water Managers' Forum for the tenth year and to network and socialise with colleagues.

It was very pleasing to see over 60 participants in the Water Managers' Forum session and thanks go to the four forum panellists: Peter Haywood from Tweed Shire Council, Carmel Krogh from Shoalhaven City Council, Wayne Beatty from Orange City Council and Stewart McLeod from Dubbo City Council.

Summary notes from the forum will be available on the Water Directorate's website in due course. Please join us again next year in Terrigal for the 2013 LGSA Water Management Conference.

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE REFORM

From 1 July, NSW Fair Trading will become the state's plumbing and drainage regulator. From this date, the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) will become the technical standard for all plumbing and drainage work in NSW.

The new system means plumbers will be able to work more easily across different regions, without needing to

know local variations.

The PCA calls up AS/NZS 3500 and it sets out performance requirements for the design, construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration and maintenance of plumbing and drainage installations

For more information about the PCA go to the Plumbing code and standards page on the Fair Trading website.

NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN FOR THE 2012 LGSA EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Nominations for the 2012 LGSA excellence in the Environment Awards are still open.

The Water Directorate sponsors the Environmental Best Practice for Local Water Utilities Award and would like to encourage all of our member Councils to consider nominating a recent project in 2012. The criteria for this award are:

- Demonstration of a proactive implementation of the gazetted NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007.
- Demonstration of well-developed environmental systems and management plans.
- Submission of a project, study or plan, completed within the past 12 months, that demonstrates superior environmental management.
- Presentation of former projects that demonstrate environmental awareness and sensitivity.
- Reputation for leadership within the local government water and sewer industry.

Nominations are open until 3 September and more detail about this award is available on the LGSA's Environment Awards webpage. Please



Karangi Water Treatment Plant and Dam, Coffs Harbour

direct your queries regarding your nomination to me on 8267 3010 or gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au.

The winning council project will be announced on 4 December at a luncheon in Sydney hosted by the LGSA. Visit: www.lgaconference.lgsa.org.au/events-training/environment-awards.

WATERAID SYDNEY EVENTS 2012 - DIARY DATES

The Sydney WaterAid Ball is on again on November 17. For more info contact Rachael on rachael@getthemessage.net.au and tables are already selling! Following the 2011 event which raised over \$22,500, the golf day will be on again this year on December 11. Contact Kurt@permeate.com.au for more information.

If you can't attend these events but would like to help WaterAid Australia help the poorest people in the world by providing safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education, then please donate to WaterAid Australia directly on-line or visit the site to learn more or get involved.

As a Corporate Member of WaterAid Australia, the Water Directorate encourages our 97 member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their vision. Also please subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter by and filling in your email

address on the 'Stay In touch!' section of the website at www.wateraid.org.au

AWA SMALL WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS NATIONAL CONFERENCE, NEWCASTLE PANTHERS, 26-28 SEPTEMBER

Are you up to date in your knowledge of decentralised water systems? Decentralised water systems are re-emerging as long term solutions to water scarcity and constraints of the centralised approach.

Make sure you are up to date and join the AWA's Small Water and Wastewater Systems National Conference in Newcastle. The program includes technical Tour and Workshop. Register now at www.awa.asn.au/swwsconference Early bird rates available now!

AWA NSW REGIONAL CONFERENCE: REGIONAL WATER - CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, COFFS HARBOUR, 15-17 OCTOBER

Call for Papers now open. Droughts, floods and government reviews are just a few of the challenges that have faced regional water utilities over the last few years.

This year's conference will bring stakeholders together to analyse the competing demands of the regional situation and to celebrate some of the accomplishments of the last year. To this end, the Conference will focus on the challenges and achievements of the

regional water industry. Download a flyer and abstract form by visiting the AWA website.

WANT TO PRESENT AT OZWATER'13? CALL FOR PAPERS IS NOW OPEN

If you're interested in sharing your industry knowledge, take the opportunity to present at OzWater '13 - Australia's leading water industry event.

It's a great opportunity to grow your personal and corporate profile within the industry, and you'll be presenting to potentially thousands! Call for papers closes Thursday 30 August 2012 - so submit yours now.

Visit www.ozwater.org to read the themes and details on how to submit your abstract.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The remaining meetings in 2012 are 13 September and 7, 8 November. The Annual General Meeting will also be held on Thursday 8 November 2012. All members are welcome to attend.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
July 2012
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