

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## FEBRUARY 2013

*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.*

### REVISED WATER TREATMENT PLANT GUIDELINES FOR RESIDUALS REUSE AND BACKWASH WATER RECLAMATION

In February a revised version of the Water Treatment Plant Guidelines for Residuals Reuse and Backwash Water Reclamation was distributed to our 97 member Councils.

The revised document is now more appropriate thanks to the feedback from a concerned member Council. The update includes references to the EPA Resource Recovery Exemptions and the removal of references to biosolids and biosolids guidelines.

### LAST CHANCE FOR MANAGERS TO NOMINATE STAFF FOR THE WATER DIRECTORATE OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award again which recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements. The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 7th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition on 10 April in Canberra.

The winner will join WIOA's tour group and attend a New Zealand conference. Please go straight to the website and download the nomination form from [www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/downloads/NominationForm.pdf](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/downloads/NominationForm.pdf).

Nominations close Friday 8 March.

### 7TH ANNUAL WIOA NSW WATER INDUSTRY OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, CANBERRA, 10-11 APRIL

WIOA's primary focus is to share information between people working in operational roles in the water and waste water industry. Your operators

will benefit greatly from attending this practical conference. The program is an excellent mix of platform and poster papers from operations staff with a wide range of Councils represented. The exhibition is a sell out and this is a "must not miss" event for NSW and ACT based operators.

The venue is the Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC). A preliminary program and registration form is included in hard copy mailouts of this newsletter to Member Councils.

For more details about the WIOA Conference and Exhibition please contact Craig Mathisen at WIOA on 03 58216744 or [craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au) or go to [www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au). Registrations close 4 April.

### INAUGURAL TASTE TEST AT OPERATIONS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION, CANBERRA, 10-11 APRIL

The WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition will host for the first time the Orca NSW Water Taste Test. This a fun way to find out who has the best tasting water, raise awareness of the quality of NSW's drinking water and to recognise the efforts of LWUs in delivering water services to regional communities. The taste test concept is a Queensland Water Directorate initiative and has become very popular at the WIOA conferences.

Only LWUs sending operators to the conference are eligible to enter the taste test. Water Directorate members are encouraged to send a water sample to the conference with your operators. We look forward to seeing as many LWUs at WIOA in Canberra as possible. For more details about the WIOA Conference, Exhibition and the Taste Test please contact Craig Mathisen at WIOA on 03 5821 6744 or [craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au).

### LAST CALL FOR THE WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The winner of this award will attend Ozwater'13 in Perth from 7-9 May. The award comprises one full registration to Ozwater'13 valued at \$1,610 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to \$1,600 provided by the Water Directorate.

This award aims to provide young water professionals from member councils with an opportunity to network with their peers and participate in a range of technical tours, papers and trade exhibits. Water industry professionals with less than 7 year's work experience, including final year graduates working in the local government water industry, are eligible and should go to [www.waterdirectorate.asn.au](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au).

Nominations close 28 March.



## SUBMISSION TO JOINT REVIEW OF THE WATER INDUSTRY COMPETITION ACT AND REGULATORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER RECYCLING UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

In February a submission was made to the NSW Government's review seeking consistent and efficient regulation. The Water Directorate calls for legislation that enables LWUs to have the same operational powers as SWC, HWC and private proponents under the WIC Act. A copy of our submission can be viewed here [www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/news/news\\_18\\_january\\_13.html](http://www.waterdirectorate.asn.au/news/news_18_january_13.html)

## AWA NSW SEMINAR SERIES – SEMINAR 1, RECYCLED WATER SUPPLY AND REUSE IN REGIONAL NSW, NEWCASTLE, 13 MARCH

The venue is Noahs on the Beach. For more information contact Peta Owsnett on 94360055 or on [pownsett@awa.asn.au](mailto:pownsett@awa.asn.au)

## CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY, 22 MARCH

World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March and the theme this year reflects the United Nations General Assembly's declaration of 2013 as the UN International Year of Water Cooperation. The Australian launch of World Water Day will be made by the Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, Senator the Hon Don Farrell, on 21 March in Canberra when the 2011-12 National Performance Reports for urban and rural water utilities will be released. For more information about World Water Day and the activities that your LWU can be involved in go to [www.unwater.org/](http://www.unwater.org/)

## CALL FOR PAPERS – 2013 LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

LGNSW (formerly LGSA) is calling for papers for the annual Water Management Conference which provides an opportunity for councillors, Local Government professionals, govt reps and the broader industry to tackle key water management issues and discuss emerging issues in the water portfolio.

Councils and other stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions for the conference

program, particularly on the main topics including:

- Regional water supply solutions
- Demand management and water sensitive urban design
- Review of regulatory & institutional arrangement for LWUs in regional NSW

Papers should include:

- A brief outline of the issue/main focus of your paper/suggestion.
- The preferred format for its inclusion in the program (conference paper, presentation, display, workshop topic).
- Possible presenter/s and a brief bio (50 words max).
- The type of outcome that could be expected by conference delegates.

LGNSW do not accept presentations which are solely commercial in nature. The conference dates are 8-10 September at Terrigal. Send papers to Sascha Moege on [Sascha.Moege@lgsa.org.au](mailto:Sascha.Moege@lgsa.org.au). The closing date is 19 April.

Please note that the formation of the new LGNSW organisation has meant that the website for LGNSW Water Management Conference has changed to [www.lgnsw.org.au/waterconference](http://www.lgnsw.org.au/waterconference)

## AWA NSW BRANCH AWARDS

It is very pleasing to advise that in February the AWA Chief Executive, Tom Mollenkopf, presented the prestigious NSW Water Professional of the Year Award to Simon Thorn, Executive Manager Operations at Coffs Harbour City Council.

With a staff of 71, Simon manages an operation of \$900 million worth of

infrastructure, with an annual budget of \$37 million. Simon is a leader within the water sector by pioneering the use of Alliance Contracts within NSW local government for the delivery of major capital works projects.

In addition to achievements at the local level, he has served the NSW local water industry as an inaugural member of the Water Directorate Executive Committee since December 1998 and for the past 14 years. Prior to working with Coffs Harbour City Council for the past 23 years, Simon worked in the water industry in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Congratulations to Simon on his well deserved gong and best wishes in the National Awards at Ozwater'13 in Perth in May.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting dates for 2013 are:

- 14 March
- 2 May
- 11 July
- 5 September
- 6 and 7 November

Members are welcome to forward issues for consideration at these meetings.

All members are also welcome to send a representative to the Annual General Meeting on 7 November so please note this date for your diary if you are interested.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
February 2013  
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Simon Thorn accepting his NSW Water Professional of the Year Award from AWA CEO, Tom Mollenkopf.