

SEPTEMBER 2019

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.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the September edition of the newsletter. Some of the tasks undertaken this month on behalf of our members include:

- Facilitated the Water Directorate Forum at the LGNSW Water Management Conference, as well as an Executive Committee workshop before the conference.
- Attended the latest LGNSW LWU Policy Advisory Group meeting.

Issues we are working on:

- Drought updates from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and WaterNSW.
- Water industry training.
- Telcos on Tanks.
- Reform of water industry frameworks and regulations.

As always, we will keep you up to date on progress in future editions.

DROUGHT UPDATE

There are 22 towns with high risk of failure of water supply. Smaller towns continue to cart water by truck, whilst larger towns are investing in

emergency water supply works to strengthen water supplies.

More info is available via DPIE's [drought update](#) page including activities of [Critical Water Advisory Panels](#). More [drought information sessions](#) are planned in a number of towns before the end of the year.

It is important to keep your DPIE [Regional Manager](#) up to date on your situation to access any assistance you need.

The October to December outlook from BOM is available [here](#).

WATER SUPPLY WORK APPROVAL EXEMPTIONS

New water supply work such as bores, dams, or river pumps require authorisation under the Water Management Act 2000.

Local water utilities experiencing serious drought can now apply for an exemption under a new [Clause 39A of the Regulation](#) to urgently access additional sources of water. The exemption is for short-term use. Applications for long-term use need to be made in the normal way.

LGNSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WRAP UP

Click [here](#) to access the conference presentations.

- Minister for Water, Property and Housing, The Hon Melinda Pavey MP spoke about her long-term commitments to water security – building new dams and pipelines – including \$650 million to raise the height of Wyangala Dam.
- Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator, DPC, James McTavish spoke about leadership in water, being realistic about short-term needs. He encouraged all utilities to contact him with their urgent needs. If the Government doesn't know about your situation then it definitely can't help.
- Chief Executive Officer – Water, DPIE, Dr Jim Bentley agreed with feedback from the audience that the framework for water in NSW was confusing and we need to simplify it.
- Manager Water Sector Engagement, BOM, Matthew Coulton

presented a bleak picture of the current drought and the outlook for September to November, which will continue to have well below average rainfall.

- Manager, Regional Water Strategies, DPIE, Darcy Moar presented on Regional Water Strategies and plans to consult with local government JOs in the next two months.

LGNSW DROUGHT SUMMIT

Thanks to LGNSW for inviting me to present to the Sustaining the Regions forum, which included a Drought Summit on Day 2.

NSW Water Minister, The Hon Melinda Pavey and Commonwealth Minister, The Hon Mark Coulton addressed the summit, as did DPIE Director Water Utilities Michael Blackmore. Take-away messages included seeking a common water restriction regime for regional NSW, plus better consultation and collaboration between local and state government in developing water strategies.

DRAFT WATER RESOURCE PLANS OPEN FOR COMMENT

Water sharing rules are being reviewed, with the proposed amendments on public exhibition **for the month of October only.**

It is important that your water utility is represented in the consultation process, both water managers and Councillors.

[Draft Namoi Surface Water Resource Plan](#)

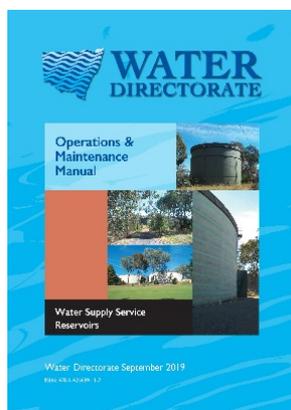
[Macquarie Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012](#)

[Gwydir Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012](#)

[Barwon Darling Watercourse Water Resource Plan](#)

O&M MANUAL FOR WATER SUPPLY SERVICE RESERVOIRS

We are pleased to advise that the *O&M Manual for Water Supply Reservoirs* has been reviewed and updated.



It is available for [free download for members](#) or through our [online Bookshop](#).

TELCOS ON TANKS

Thank you to those water managers who got in touch with us to tell us their story about the impacts of 'telco' facilities on their utility. We continue to make representations to Commonwealth agencies to demonstrate the serious risks to your water reservoir integrity due to telecom infrastructure. If you have a 'telco' facility attached to your tank, and you haven't been in touch with me yet,

please [email me](#) with your evidence so we can help.

IN THE NEWS

- [AWA CEO to step down next year](#)
- [Smarter ways than dams to manage Sydney's water supply](#)
- [NSW and Qld brace for hot, dry summer](#)
- [Sydney desal plant to double in size as dams approach critical level](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **NSW Young Water Professionals Mentoring Program**, 9 October
- **AWA NSW Legends of Water 2019** Sydney, 31 October
- **AWA Newcastle Water Industry Networking Night** Newcastle, 22 October
- **IPWEA (NSW Div) Annual Conference** Hunter Valley, 6-8 November

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Remaining meeting dates for 2019 are:

- Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November
- Tentative dates for 2020, venues to be confirmed:
- Thursday 12 March
 - Thursday 7 May (clash with Ozwater '20 in Adelaide)
 - Thursday 9 July
 - Thursday 10 September
 - Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 November

Brendan Guiney
Executive Officer

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