

## JULY 2018

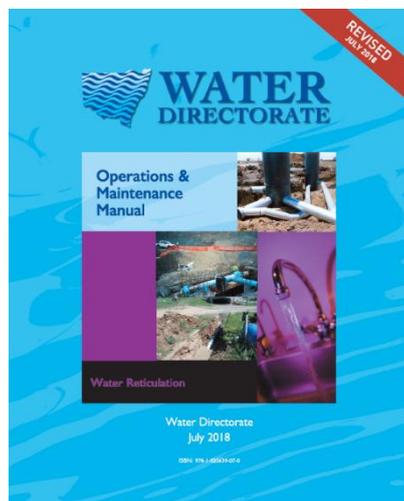
*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 18/19

In June invoices were sent out to member Councils. Many thanks to the 50+ member Councils that have rejoined promptly so far.

### NEXT PUBLICATION: O&M MANUAL FOR WATER RETICULATION

This updated O&M Manual is expected to be issued in August. This publication has been updated in accordance with the Water Directorate's policy of keeping our publications as practical, useful and relevant as possible. First distributed in 2001 and updated in 2003, this latest version was compiled by Mike Brearley and Associates with input from the Executive Committee.



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, ARMIDALE, 3-5 SEPTEMBER

To be held at the Armidale Ex-Services Memorial Club, the conference presents local government attendees with a broad range of information on water policy, water

management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated LWUs.

This year's conference has an impressive program focused on the following key themes:

- **The future of urban water reform**  
The Minister for Regional Water, Shadow Minister for Water, Infrastructure Australia and the Productivity Commission will challenge delegates with their views on the way forward
- **Technology and innovative infrastructure solutions**  
Learn about new and emerging technologies and local infrastructure case studies
- **Water quality and sustainable water management**  
Explore how to implement a preventive risk-based approach; manage during sustained periods of drought and find options for domestic water supply in non-reticulated areas
- **Managing risks in the water industry**  
Information will encompass strategic, operational and occupational risks

Visit the [LGNSW website](http://www.lgns.gov.au) to register or contact Anita Roditis, Events Sponsorship Officer, on 02 9242 4031 or [via email](mailto:info@waterdirectorate.asn.au).

### YOUR INPUT IS VALUED AT THE WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM AT ARMIDALE

This year's forum at the LGNSW Water Management Conference will feature a workshop to evaluate the Water Directorate's Strategic Business Plan. We will be seeking comments and advice from the attendees.

The Water Directorate will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2018 and it is very timely to review our past in order to plan for the future. External reviews of the Water Directorate's Strategic Business Plan were previously carried out at our 5 and 15 year anniversaries.

In June the Water Directorate engaged the Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Centre for Local Government, Government, UTS, to undertake the review. An extensive survey was developed and sent to NSW LWUs. The survey was open for 3 weeks in July and approx 75% of NSW LWUs responded to the survey.

Survey responses are being analysed and will be presented to the Water Forum attendees. We look forward to getting your input in Armidale.

**ENERGY AND UTILITIES  
FUNCTIONAL AREA  
COORDINATOR, DEPT OF  
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**  
Project Officer Russell Fox from the Energy and Utilities Functional Area Coordinator (EUSFAC) recently advised the

Water Directorate that its role is to be the liaison between industry and NSW emergency services. The EUSFAC is supported by the Energy Operations Team whose role is to understand the limitations and expectations of all of NSW's water and wastewater operators.

One of Russell's objectives is to re-establish connections and contacts with regional water operators as this will be invaluable to all parties in the event of significant, state level incidents such as bushfire, flooding and widespread power outages. Russell is keen to get to know NSW regional personnel and to gather operational information about water and wastewater networks.

Russell has been invited to give a presentation to the Executive Committee at our 13 September meeting. If you wish to discuss this matter with Russell to assist the re-establishment of connections between the Dept and regional water operators, his contact details are: Project Officer – Energy Emergency Management, Energy, Dept of Planning & Environment, [via email](#) or phone 0488 988 785.

### **SAM SAMRA MEMORIAL AWARD**

Water legend Sam Samra passed away in 2016 and in 2017 the Water Directorate, LGNSW and Department of Industry - Water co-presented the inaugural award at the LGNSW Water Management Conference in Dubbo in honour of Sam's great work. A single award will be presented at the LGNSW Water Management Conference dinner in Armidale. The Water Directorate hosts the award [on our website](#).

### **VALE JOHN ANDERSON PSM**

Continuing a sad theme, in July we lost a highly respected gentleman of the water industry. Many people in the local government, state, national and the international water industry were saddened to hear of the passing of John Anderson, retired Technical Director, NSW Public Works and Services.

John was a renowned specialist in effluent recycling and reuse. The Water Directorate availed itself of John's expertise almost 20 years ago when engaging him to write one of our earliest technical publications. John and his DPWS team prepared our publication titled *Survey of NSW Local Government Effluent and Biosolids Reuse 2000* which we distributed to all Water Directorate member Councils in 2001. This publication collates the results of a survey of effluent reuse and biosolids projects in NSW LWUs and was a valuable reference document of current and best practice at a time when reuse became an increasingly important field.

The Water Directorate launched this publication at the LGSA Conference at Forbes in August 2001. The publication provided member councils with case study data and briefly examined effluent reuse guidelines, biosolids management and public liability issues. The Water Directorate considered that this publication contained information that was more complete and accurate than any previous survey of local government effluent and biosolids reuse in NSW. This information assisted councils to share experiences, solve problems and identify opportunities to increase reuse and recycling.

John in his capacity as Chair of the NSW Recycled Water Coordination Committee, invited Water Directorate participation on this committee in 2000 which at that time was made up of reps from DLWC, NSW Health, EPA, Hunter Water Corp, Sydney Water Corp, DUAP, Pacific Power, NSW Agriculture, LGSA, AWA and ACTEW. Water Directorate representation on this committee was very beneficial allowing our reuse sub-committee to network with key industry contacts.

At the national level, John was the Coordinator of the AWA National Water Recycling Forum. At the international level John was Chair of the International Water Association's Water Reuse Specialist Group. John was a very dedicated and quietly spoken NSW public servant who achieved great things and was rewarded deservedly with the Public Service Medal in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours.

No doubt friends and colleagues at the upcoming LGNSW Water Management Conference will reminisce about John, Sam and Kamal all of whom have been role models and made significant contributions to NSW LWUs. Our sympathy goes to John's family, many friends and colleagues.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

- **IPWEA (NSW Div), Annual Conference & Excellence Awards, Hunter Valley, 7-9 November**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting dates for 2018 are:

- Thursday, 13 September
- Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 November

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
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