

JUNE 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

Greetings everyone. Time for my second report since joining the Water Directorate. We are keeping ourselves busy on the water issues that matter to you, including:

- Regional water strategies
- Demand management measures
- Dam safety regulation changes
- Liquid Trade Waste policy changes
- Water industry training
- WSAA Codes for water and sewerage networks
- Prioritisation of upcoming Water Directorate technical projects

We will keep you up to date on progress in future editions.

DROUGHT UPDATE

As conditions in inland NSW have worsened, our utilities continue to discuss emergency and contingency water supply planning with the government.

NSW Department of Industry has announced no new allocation of water for general security users in 2019-20 because of the severity of the drought. High security licences held by industries

such as mines have also been restricted.



Macquarie River

Unfortunately, the outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology suggests drier than average conditions for July to September. I've found that BOM's [Climate and Water Outlook video](#) provides a short and simple snapshot of a complex subject.

REGIONAL WATER STRATEGIES

From a strategic standpoint, Department of Industry are presently working to develop 12 regional water strategies across NSW. Current priorities to be delivered in 2019 are the Gwydir, Macquarie and Lachlan catchments.

The Water Directorate is advocating for more detailed consideration of urban water needs in these regional strategies, particularly

planning for extreme conditions and better consideration of water quality impacts in providing safe drinking water.

It is pleasing to note that Minister Pavey has stated that the delivery of urgent water infrastructure will not be delayed while completing the strategies.

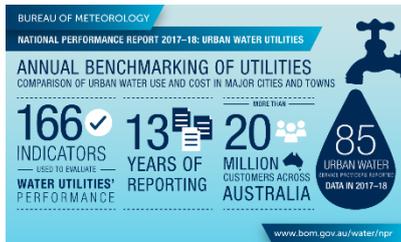
IN THE NEWS

- [Cash splash possible: NSW govt doesn't have to wait for water study,](#)
- [Shoalhaven investigates PFAS contamination](#)
- [Minister brings \\$5 million drop of relief to Tamworth](#)

AUDIT OF NATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT INDICATORS

Continuing the subject of performance indicators, larger NSW utilities that are covered by the *National Performance Reporting Framework for Urban Water Utilities* are required to have selected indicators independently audited every 3 years.

The 18/19 indicators are due for audit.



Department of Industry will make audit templates available to local water utilities to assist. You can request support at LWU.PerformanceReporting@dpi.nsw.gov.au

RELEASE OF IPART REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR

On 21 June, IPART released its [Review of the reporting and compliance burdens on Local Government 2016](#).

Recommendations 11 and 12 relate to Local Water Utility reporting. We will continue to discuss the outcomes with the relevant agencies.

ASBESTOS CEMENT (AC) WATER PIPES

NSW EPA is currently representing NSW at the national level with the Australian Government's *Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA)*. WSAA is also at the table representing water utilities.

There are notably different practices for managing AC pipes in different jurisdictions. Victorian policy is to exhume AC pipes and safely dispose of them wherever possible. NSW practice is to avoid exhuming AC pipes unless absolutely necessary. The ideal result would be to

recognise both practices as valid and a judgement for each utility to make on its merits.

AWA NSW STATE CONFERENCE 2019

Registrations are now open for the [Australian Water Association NSW State Conference](#) on 8-9 August, hosted by Orange City Council. There is an impressive program of speakers with significant relevance to regional NSW. I encourage you to register.

WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM @ LGNSW CONFERENCE

Planning is well underway for the Water Directorate Forum on the afternoon of Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at the [LGNSW Water Management Conference](#).

Forum topics will include:

- Engagement with BOM
- Regional water strategies
- Safe and Secure Program
- LWU Performance Reporting
- Telcos on Tanks update
- Pipelines crossing railway corridors
- Industry training needs.

REGIONAL WATER AND SEWER CODES

The Water Directorate is working with WSAA to scope a regional NSW version of the WSAA Codes. Initial discussions have been very promising. More information to come after we complete an initial scoping process.

EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

The Water Directorate sponsors an award for water management in LGNSW'S annual [Excellence in the Environment Awards](#). Nominations close 29 July.

PUBLICATIONS

Another plug for our 80 publications that have been developed to help you deliver high quality water and sewerage services to your community. They are available to members for free download [from our website](#). Non-members may purchase from the [online Bookshop](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **AWA NSW State Conference**
Orange 8-9 August
- **LGNSW Water Management Conference**
Albury, 2-4 September
- **12th National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference**
Perth, 16-19 September
- **IPWEA (NSW Div) Annual Conference**
Hunter Valley, 6-8 November

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meeting dates for 2019 are:

- Thursday 11 July
- Thursday 12 September
- Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November

Brendan Guiney
Executive Officer
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