

## SEPTEMBER 2018

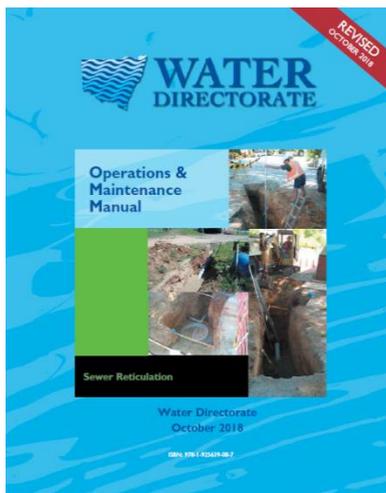
*This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.*

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 18/19

In June invoices were sent out to member Councils. Many thanks to the 82 member Councils that have rejoined so far. Please note that only financial Member Councils will receive new and updated publications such as those due for release below.

### NEXT PUBLICATION: O&M MANUAL FOR SEWER RETICULATION UPDATE

This updated O&M Manual will be issued in October. 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.



Following the distribution of the updated O&M Manual for Sewer Reticulation, it is planned to distribute the new Building in the Vicinity of Trunk Water Mains Guidelines in December.

### SNOWY MONARO COUNCIL WINS THE SAM SAMRA AWARD FOR IMPROVEMENT IN BEST PRACTICE SERVICE DELIVERY IN 2018

Congratulations to Snowy Monaro Council for winning this award now in its second year. The award symbolises best practice and also recognises LWUs that have embraced and demonstrated improvement in best practice service delivery



The award is named after Water legend Sam Samra who passed away in 2016 and honours Sam's great work over his long career. In 2017 the Water Directorate, LGNSW and Department of Industry Water created and co-presented the inaugural Sam Samra award at the LGNSW Water Management Conference in Dubbo.

The winner was determined by a judging panel from a shortlist of three LWUs that undertook projects that delivered major performance

improvements. This award was presented at the spectacular Echidna Gully Function Centre in Armidale at LGNSW's Water Management Conference dinner.



*Pictured on my left are Linda Scott, President of LGNSW; Michael Blackmore, Director Water Utilities Department of Industry; Gnai Ahmet, Snowy Monaro Regional Council's Group Manager Water and Waste; and Stephen Palmer, former A/Director, Urban Water Program Director, Water Security for Regions, DPI Water (retired).*

The Water Directorate hosts the award [on our website](#).

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

Congratulations to LGNSW for convening another successful Water Management Conference. Thirteen Water Directorate Executive Committee members attended the 2018 LGNSW conference.

The Water Directorate sponsored the Conference Dinner, co-presented the Sam Samara Memorial Award and

facilitated the Water Manager's Forum on behalf of LGNSW. This was the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the Water Directorate has facilitated the Water Manager's Forum commencing in Taree in 2003.

#### **WATER DIRECTORATE FORUM AT ARMIDALE**

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

The Water Directorate will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December 2018 and it is very timely to review our past and future roles. External reviews of our Strategic Business Plan were previously carried out at our 5 and 15 year anniversaries. The Public Policy and Governance, Centre for Local Government, UTS conducted the review. Thanks to the NSW LWUs that responded to the online survey in July about our role.

The online survey had 116 individual responses out of 178 emailed or a 65% response rate. 94/116 completed the survey. 63/89 LWUs responded. The key issue is ageing infrastructure followed very closely by a shortage of skilled technical staff and also by the cost of compliance with HBTs.

UTS Prof Roberta Ryan discussed the Survey responses with Water Forum attendees and sought further feedback. It was also pleasing to know that over 70% of responders read this newsletter and that over 90% of responders found the O&M Manuals useful. Also pleasing is that only 6% of responders were dissatisfied with the 3 services of tech publications, advocacy and info sharing.

#### **URGENT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL WATER CENTRE WATER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

The IWC in collaboration with the Water Directorate is currently offering a full scholarship for professionals interested in joining the next intake of the Water Leadership Program **in December 2018**.

This award winning program is designed for emerging leaders in the water sector to develop the abilities they need to exert influence, drive change and advance challenging integrated water management projects and programs. To be eligible, the applicant must satisfy 8 criteria which are outlined on the [IWC website](#). For information call the IWC Water Leadership Program team on 07 3028 7600.

**Applications close 21 October.**

Lalji Rathod, Operations Engineer, Water & Sewer at Kempsey Shire Council won a part scholarship in 2016 and recently completed the program. Applicants might wish to contact Lalji for an insight into his experience on 02 6566 3357, 0409 778 191 or [via email](#).

Alternatively for more information contact Brian McIntosh, Education Director, IWC on 0458 855 945 or [via email](#).

**ENERGY AND UTILITIES FUNCTIONAL AREA COORDINATOR, DEPT OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**  
In September Project Officer Russell Fox from the Energy & Utilities Services Functional Area Coordinator (EUSFAC) advised the Executive Committee 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.

Please assist Russell to re-establish connections between the Dept of Planning & Environment and regional water operators. Russell's contact details are: Project Officer – Energy Emergency Management, Energy, Dept of Planning & Environment, on 0488 988 785 or [via email](#).

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The remaining meeting dates for 2018 are:

- Wednesday, 14 and Thursday, 15 November

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
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#### **AGEING INFRASTRUCTURE!**

Many thanks to Meg Fisher, LGNSW Events Manager for arranging the very special farewell for me at the LGNSW Water Management Conference Dinner. While I won't be retiring until next year it was the last Water Management Conference that I will attend. Armidale was my 20<sup>th</sup> Water Management Conference in 20 years commencing with Bathurst in August 1999. All have been a pleasure to attend.