

WATER DIRECTORATE news

SEPTEMBER 2012

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 102 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

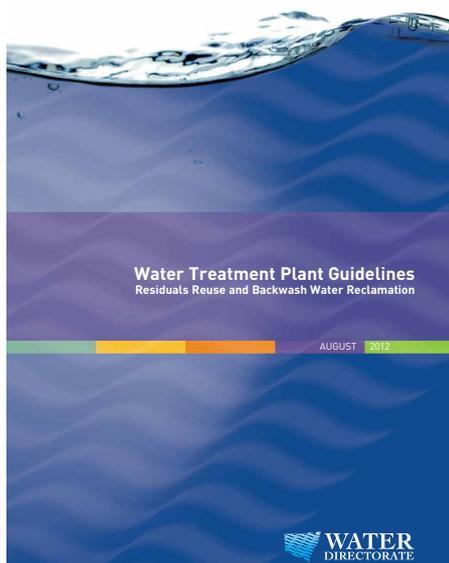
MEMBERSHIP FEES OVERDUE

Membership fees are now overdue. The benefits of membership include networking opportunities with your peers in all 97 member Councils via the discussion forum and through technical publications such as the *WTP Guidelines for Residuals Reuse & Backwash Water Reclamation* (see next item below) and the soon to be released *Overview of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*. Thanks to the 87 member Councils that have rejoined promptly, so far.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT GUIDELINES FOR RESIDUALS REUSE AND BACKWASH WATER RECLAMATION

The Water Directorate's latest publication was distributed in September to financial member Councils. This fully revised version of a 2003 publication was prepared by GHD under peer review of the Water Subcommittee.

The guidelines will assist LWUs to determine the derisability and viability of reusing sludge and/or wastewater from water treatment plants.



FEEDBACK FROM THE DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

In September 33 people from 20 NSW LWUs that own dams attended the Water Directorate's Dam Safety Management Workshop. All the participants and the six presenters are thanked for their valuable contribution.

The workshop provided a good opportunity to discuss the risk management regime introduced by the NSW Dam Safety Committee in 2009.

The workshop topics included legislative requirements; risk management; safety emergency management plans; training requirements; case studies and dam safety inspection systems.

Following the workshop, the Water Directorate is considering the production of a *Dam Safety Management Guideline* and the formation a Dam Owners Interest Group.

In response to interest from north coast regional Councils, another workshop has been tentatively scheduled to be held at Ballina on 14 November. More information will be made available when all presenters are confirmed.

NATIONAL WATER WEEK 2012, 21 - 27 OCTOBER

National Water Week is Australia's only national water awareness week. It is an annual event that aims to raise public awareness and improve understanding of water issues in Australia.

This theme for National Water Week 2012 is *Valuing Our Water*, and the event seeks to raise knowledge of the value of freshwater resources and to aid in developing a responsible approach to water usage so that we can ensure there is to be enough

freshwater to meet the needs of future generations.

AWA coordinates National Water Week and works with its members and other interested organisations to foster community support and engagement through events, water-related activities and educational resources. For more information about getting involved and a wide range of education resources, contact info@awa.asn.au or www.awa.asn.au/nationalwaterweek/.

LAST CALL FOR AWA NSW REGIONAL CONFERENCE: REGIONAL WATER - CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS, COFFS HARBOUR, 15-17 OCTOBER

This year's conference will bring stakeholders together to analyse the competing demands of the regional situation and to celebrate some of the accomplishments of the last year.

The conference will focus on the challenges and achievements of the regional water industry. Download a flyer and abstract form at www.awa.asn.au/NSW_Regional_Conference/.

Water Directorate Deputy Chair Carmel Krogh will facilitate a Forum session on *Destination 2036* at the conference. LWU attendees should take advantage of AWA's generous offer for government employees.

When one delegate books at the member or non-member rate, the second government employee will receive the government rate. For more information about this exclusive rate or how to register please contact AWA NSW manager Peta Owsnett on 02 9467 8424 or powsnett@awa.asn.au.

LAST CALL FOR AWA SHORT COURSE: INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY AND WATER

SECTOR APPLICATION, SYDNEY, 30 OCTOBER; MELBOURNE, 31 OCTOBER

Advancing sustainability is paramount in the water industry. An Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) Rating scheme has been developed by the Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC) and launched in February 2012 to help define and reward sustainability performance.

The scheme aims to deliver social, economic and environmental improvements across the design, construction and operation of Australia's infrastructure.

This broad introduction will demonstrate how this scheme can assist water sector decision makers and planners in asset planning, design, procurement, delivery and operations. For more information visit www.awa.asn.au/Infrastructure_Sustainability.aspx

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WATER SENSITIVE CITIES LAUNCHED

Science & Research Minister Chris Evans and Parliamentary Secretary for Urban Water Don Farrell announced the launch of the new CRC for Water Sensitive Cities.

The CRC's research will concentrate on the modelling and analysis of society's water usage behaviours and will collaborate with over 70 research, industry and government partners. The CRC aims to:

- develop tools/resources to improve urban planning & design & construction processes & wastewater management;
- introduce innovative technologies to better manage urban waterways & minimise the risk of flooding, minimise carbon footprints & maximise the value of urban water services;
- conduct research to assist in ensuring the planning, design & construction [process for] urbanised landscapes [is] more sensitive to natural water cycles; &
- conduct research that will assist in reducing water usage, improving ecosystems, enhancing wastewater treatment & cut[ting] greenhouse gas emissions.

The CRC has been allocated \$30 million in Federal Government funding until 30 June 2021.

Joint media release 24/9/12 (Source: Science and Research Minister; Parliamentary Secretary for Urban Water)

ICEWARM PROFESSIONAL SHORT COURSES, OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012

- 2nd Coal Seam Gas and Water - Sydney, Novotel Rockford Darling Harbour: 31 October - 2 November
- 3rd Groundwater Essentials - Adelaide: 19 November
- 7th Climate Change Adaptation - Adelaide: 26 - 27 November
- 2nd Water in Coal Mines - Newcastle, Travelodge: 28 - 30 November
- Water Essentials - Brisbane, PIB Conference Centre: 10 December

For general enquiries and group discounts contact Joel Voortman on 08 8236 5208, training@icewarm.com.au and www.icewarm.com.au/short-courses.

ANNUAL REVIEW

In September the 2011/2012 Annual Review was completed and will be distributed widely in October.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The remaining three of eight 2012 meetings are the Annual Planning Meeting, AGM and Executive Committee Meeting to be held on 7, 8 November. An invitation will be sent with a copy of the Annual Review to all General Managers to attend the AGM or nominate a representative from a member Council.

REQUEST FOR NEW PROJECT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The Annual Planning Meeting on Wednesday 7 November seeks to organise our three year program for 2013 to 2015 by incorporating new projects and re-prioritising the list. Your project suggestions are greatly appreciated. Please email them to Gary Mitchell by 31 October at info@waterdirectoratesn.au.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
September 2012
© Copyright Water Directorate

