

WATER DIRECTORATE news

DECEMBER 2012

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 103 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I wish a peaceful and safe festive season to all member Council staff and to all readers of this newsletter. Thanks to all member Councils for your support and to the individuals who have provided valuable contributions via the discussion forum throughout 2012. Best wishes for a rewarding 2013.

WATER DIRECTORATE WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS

In December the Water Directorate held a one-day workshop to facilitate the debate amongst local government water professionals regarding the plethora of reviews of LWUs in recent years.

Despite the number of reviews, the State Government has not set a firm direction for the future of Council and County Council LWUs. It is critical that practitioners provide informed input into the debate on our future direction.

The following reviews are currently being undertaken or considered by various NSW Government departments:

- *Local Government Act* Review
- Independent Local Government Review Panel
- *NSW Planning Act* Review
- Review of the Adequacy of Water Storages
- Infrastructure Strategy by Infrastructure NSW
- Water Recycling Review - WICA, s60 & s68 approvals

The outcomes of this workshop provided a basis for a submission to the current reviews and will provide guidance and input to shaping LGSA policy on these issues.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2013 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award again which recognises commitment to the job, innovation, initiative and achievements.

Managers of NSW operators who have the abovementioned qualities are urged to nominate their staff before 8 March 2013.

The winner will be presented a set of trophies at the 7th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition on 10 April 2013 in Canberra. In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend a New Zealand conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS OPEN FOR IPWEA NSW DIVISION 2013 STATE CONFERENCE

The IPWEA NSW Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Terrigal on 6-8 May 2013. The Conference encourages participation from all those involved with public works, infrastructure and engineering, through the opportunity of presenting a paper.

Share your expertise, show your skills and tell us of the change and influence this has had on your community. For Call for Papers Brochure and template go to: www.ipwea.org.au/NewSouthWales/NSW_Education/EventDescription/?CalendarEventKey=1fd3341b-7d6e-4a8b-9d38-34cde8b96a39

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2013 WATER DIRECTORATE/ AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The winner of this award will attend Ozwater'13 in Perth from 7-9 May 2013. The award comprises one full

registration to Ozwater'13 valued at \$1,610 courtesy of AWA as well as travel and accommodation expenses to \$1,600 provided by the Water Directorate.

The aim of this award is to promote young water industry professionals with less than 7 year's work experience. Nominations from final year graduates who are working in the local government water industry are also welcome.

A nomination form is enclosed with the hardcopy version of this newsletter and on the website. Nominations close 28 March 2013.

LGSA ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Congratulations to Dubbo City Council for winning the Environmental Best Practice Award for Local Water Utilities sponsored by the Water Directorate as part of the LGSA's Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards.

The award was accepted by Kathryn McAlister, Water & Sewerage Client Services Co-ordinator at Dubbo City Council. The award recognises that Dubbo City Council's LWU function has always sought to be proactive and progressive in its approach to environmental management.

This is evidenced by Dubbo leading the industry in such areas as % of effluent reuse, industry standard PRP 100 sewer overflow investigation reporting, early adoption of both water loss management and of sewerage reticulation hydraulic modelling, and Installation of Australia's largest urban groundwater monitoring network.

The LGSA's Local Govt Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements in managing and protecting the environment. Congratulations again to Dubbo City Council.



H₂O, H₂O, H₂O, Merry Christmas!

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE AT A DIVISION LEVEL

Congratulations to Stewart McLeod, Director Technical Services at Dubbo City Council and Water Directorate Chair. At the Engineers Australia Dubbo Country Group annual dinner meeting in November, the President of Sydney Division presented Group Chair Stewart McLeod with the Engineers Australia Medal.

The award recognises meritorious service at a Division level to achieve Engineers Australia's goals in the interests of the profession. In this case the award was for Stewart's services to Local Government and Public Works Engineering over the course of his career.

Stewart wears many hats: he is also Vice President of IPWEA (NSW), Chair of the Dubbo Country Group of Engineers Australia, and an Excellence Awards Chief Judge for the Sydney Division of Engineers Australia.

NEW BOARD FOR SYDNEY CATCHMENT AUTHORITY

Congratulations to Carmel Krogh, Director Shoalhaven Water and Deputy Chair of the Water Directorate. In December the Minister for Primary Industries, The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP, announced the appointment of a new Board for the SCA.

Ms Hodgkinson said the new Board brings a range of skills and expertise to the organisation and represents a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

The SCA manages 16,000 square kms of drinking water catchments from

Lithgow in the north to the headwaters of the Shoalhaven River near Cooma in the south. It also manages a vast network of water supply infrastructure including 21 dams that supply SWC and several local councils with raw water.

The new Board appointments are for two years and the first meeting is expected before Christmas.

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2013 AND 2014

The election process is now complete for the Executive Committee for the next two calendar years. GMs were required to vote in one of nine Groups of Councils. Five new representatives have joined the Executive Committee, 13 have returned and 6 have retired.

Thanks to all the nominees and congratulations to the all those who were successful in forming the Executive Committee for 2013/ 2014. I'm pleased to announce that all 18 positions have been filled.

Welcome to new members: Brett Corven from Eurobodalla Shire Council, Brendan Guiney from Mid Coast Water County Council, Terry Seymour from Richmond Valley Council, Alan Fletcher from Singleton Shire Council, and welcome back to Tony Holmes from Shoalhaven Water after a few years away.

Welcome to returning members David Byrne, Doug Hill, Stewart McLeod, Wayne Beatty, Wayne Franklin, Eric Poga, Jeff Sharp, David Tull, Greg McDonald, Russell Deans, Greg Finlayson, David Steller and Heinz Kausche.

Special thanks to the first 3 returning members above who have unselfishly volunteered for an eighth, two year term!

Thanks to members Simon Thorn, Carmel Krogh, Angus McLean, Mike Rayner, Brian Carter and John Maxwell who retired during the 2 year term.

Special thanks to Simon Thorn who is an inaugural member of the Executive Committee and has served continuously for 14 years. Simon's experience and the support of Coffs Harbour City Council have been greatly appreciated.

Similarly, special thanks to Carmel and Shoalhaven Water. Carmel stepped down from the Executive Committee of the Water Directorate after 10 year's voluntary service to concentrate on the demands of the SCA Board role, see the previous news item.

Congratulations and thanks to the previous Executive Committee which met 14 times over the past two year term. The achievements of this committee include:

- publishing 7 technical water management documents;
- partly funding 1 WIOA operator guide;
- facilitating 3 workshops;
- hosting 4 water managers' forums: and
- sponsoring 7 awards for member Councils and individuals.

The new Executive Committee will meet for the first time on 14 March 2013 and the first duty will be to elect a Chair for the next two years.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
December 2012
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