

NOVEMBER 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.

THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SAYS WATER UTILITIES ARE SAFE FROM GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER

In November the State Government said councils in the central west would not lose control of local water utilities. The Minister for Local Government addressed delegates from 16 councils at the Central West Group of Councils summit in Bathurst. Members of CENTROC had raised concerns with the Minister that there was going to be a government takeover of water utilities. Minister Don Page said that is not the case but, the services are being looked at by an independent review of local government panel.

"I'm not aware of any government plans in that regard, I know how important water supply is for regional communities," he said. "It is an issue that the local government panel is looking at, but certainly I have no intentions of either privatising water or force councils to lose local control over water or sewage supply."

Meantime the Minister said more council alliances, like the one operating in the central west, is the way forward. He says regardless of what comes out of an independent review into local government, the role of groups like CENTROC will remain important.

Mr Page said the work of the CENTROC Alliance speaks for itself. "In terms of shared resources and savings, in the case of CENTROC, they've got a compliance and cost savings program."

"They've identified \$80,000 worth of savings already, through a review of their expenditure and also through a joint procurement practises, so they are definitely doing good things there."

Item courtesy of ABC, 8 Nov 2012.

WRAP UP FROM DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN BALLINA

A second workshop was held at Ballina in November in response to strong interest from north coast regional councils.

The event attracted thirty one attendees and the workshop provided a good opportunity to discuss the risk management regime introduced by the NSW Dam Safety Committee in 2009.

Five presenters discussed legislative requirements; risk management; safety emergency management plans; training requirements; case studies and dam safety inspection systems. Thanks to the presenters for sharing their knowledge and for their in attending the second workshop.

In 2013 the Executive Committee will further consider producing Dam Safety Guidelines and forming a Dam Interest Group.

OVERVIEW OF THE 2011 AUSTRALIAN DRINKING WATER GUIDELINES

In November the latest Water Directorate publication titled *Overview of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* was distributed to our member councils.

This is our third such publication which aims to simplify the latest ADWG and highlights the changes since the previous ADWG IN 2004.

This project was co-funded by the Queensland Water Directorate and as a result the Guideline will be a very useful reference for our 97 NSW LWUs and Queensland's 65 members.

To purchase this guideline please go to our website at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au and click on Technical Publications or email info@waterdirectorate.asn.au The cost for this publication is \$100 for members or \$225 for non-members.



NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR THE 2013 NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

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 WIOA Conference on 10 April 2012 in Canberra - see also next item.

In addition the winner will join the WIOA tour group and attend a New Zealand conference. A hard copy nomination form is included with the printed newsletter mailed to member councils. A soft copy is also available on our website at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au

2013 WIOA CONFERENCE

The 7th Annual WIOA NSW Water Industry Engineers & Operators Conference will be held on 10 and 11 April 2013. Abstracts should have been submitted by 21 November.

Final papers and posters must be submitted by 1 March 2013. Submission details can be downloaded from www.wioa.org.au/2013conferences/callforpapers.htm

2013 IPWEA NSW ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS - INNOVATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER

Nominations are now sought for the 2013 IPWEA NSW Engineering Excellence Awards. The IPWEA (NSW Div) presents the Excellence Awards each year to promote and recognise excellence of Local Government and public works projects.

The Water Directorate initiated the Category 3 Award in 2000 titled *Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater* and is pleased to continue to sponsor this award.

Only our 97 member councils can nominate and forms can be downloaded at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au

Water Directorate member councils are urged to nominate projects in Category 3 **before** Christmas as nominations close on Monday 7 January 2013. An award nomination form was enclosed with the hardcopy version of this newsletter.

The presentation will be held on 7 May 2013. For more information please contact Michelle Burgess, Events & Partnerships Manager on michelle@ipwea.org.au

CALL FOR PAPERS OPEN FOR IPWEA NSW DIVISION 2013 CONFERENCE

The IPWEA NSW Conference 2013 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. Call for Papers Brochure and template can be found at http://www.ipwea.org.au/NewSouthWales/NSW_Education/EventDescription/?CalendarEventKey=1fd3341b-7d6e-4a8b-9d38-34cde8b96a39

LAST CALL FOR WATERAID 2012 SYDNEY CHARITY GOLF DAY PENNANT HILLS GOLF COURSE 11 DECEMBER

WaterAid asks that you show your support and acknowledge the importance of water to individuals, the community and industry by attending the WaterAid Charity Golf Day. All proceeds will be directed to WaterAid Australia. For more information please visit www.wateraid.org/australia/ or contact Kurt Dahl via email kurt@permeate.com.au.

URBAN WATER REGULATION IN NSW - DISCUSSION PAPER

The NSW Government has released a Discussion Paper to seek stakeholder feedback on a joint review of the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (WIC Act) and regulatory arrangements for water recycling under the Local Govt Act 1993 (LG Act).

The Department of Finance and Services on behalf of the NSW Government is leading the joint review. The purpose of the review is to address issues with aspects of the current regulation of the urban water sector in NSW, and develop a consistent whole-of-sector approach that appropriately manages risks to public health, the environment and consumers without imposing unnecessary red tape.

Key issues discussed in the paper include whether there is scope to develop more targeted risk-based regulatory requirements across both the WIC Act and LG Act, how current processes can be improved to reduce costs to business and government alike, and how to allocate

regulatory roles and responsibilities. The Discussion Paper is on exhibition until 15 February 2013 and stakeholders are invited to make written submissions. To view the paper click www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/document/show/541

Public information workshops will be held in the following metropolitan and regional areas in December 2012:

- Queanbeyan
- Orange
- Coffs Harbour
- Newcastle
- Parramatta (LG Act only)
- Sydney (WIC Act only)

Stakeholders are encouraged to attend the workshops, which will provide an opportunity to talk directly with the government about the issues that matter to you.

To register for a workshop, download the Discussion Paper and find out more about the review, visit www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/urbanwaterregreview. For further enquiries, email urbanwaterreview@services.nsw.gov.au or 1800 759 857.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In November the Annual Planning Meeting, AGM and Executive Committee Meeting were held and completed the series of 7 meetings for 2012.

Thanks to those people who forwarded suggested projects for consideration at the Annual Planning Meeting. The actions for 2013/14 have now been prioritised and will commence in the new year.

The dates for the Executive Committee meetings in 2013 have been set:

- Thursday 14 March 2013
- Thursday 2 May 2013
- Thursday 11 July 2013
- Thursday 5 September 2013
- Wednesday 13 November 2013
- Thursday 14 November 2013

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
November 2012
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