

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## JUNE 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.

### LAND MATTERS GUIDELINES

In June the Water Directorate's latest technical publication and joint project with the IPWEA (NSW Division) Roads and Transport Directorate was distributed to GMs of the Water Directorate's 97 member Councils.

The final version of the *Land Matters Guidelines* was prepared by Maddocks Lawyers and provides guidance on many aspects of land acquisition for water, sewer & road assets.

This publication supersedes the Stage 1 publication distributed to member Councils in November 2011 and expands greatly on Chapters 6 to 12.

Topics now included are Compensation, Interest to be Acquired, Native Title and Aboriginal Land Rights, Acquiring Particular Types of Land, Other Considerations (such as mining issues), Case Studies and Annexures.

Many thanks go to Nela Turnbull, Legal Services Officer, Design, Tweed Shire Council whose assistance has ensured that this is a very practical document.

### Land Matters Guidelines MAY 2012



### PROJECTS UPDATE

The next guideline to be distributed to member Councils will be the updated and retitled publication *WTP Guidelines for Residuals Reuse and Backwash Water Reclamation*.

This guideline was prepared by GHD under guidance and peer review of the Water Directorate's Water Sub-committee and is expected to be printed and distributed in July.

The following guideline to be distributed to member Councils will be the *Overview of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*.

This document is currently being prepared by Adrian Farrant, Environmental Consultant under guidance and peer review of the Water Directorate's Water Sub-committee and is expected to be printed and distributed in August/September.

### EVAPORATIVE AIR CONDITIONERS SCOPING STUDY

savewater!® Alliance and three partners, Riverina Water County Council, Dubbo City Council and the Water Directorate, engaged the Institute of Sustainable Futures to prepare a scoping study report on potential water and energy savings from Evaporative Air Coolers.

There is strong indication that excessive amounts of water are being used in the operation of EACs but there is limited water usage data. The scoping report makes 10 recommendations that will be considered further.

### LAST CALL FOR LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, WAGGA WAGGA, 22-24 JULY

The LGSA Water Management Conference is being held in Wagga Wagga on 22-24 July with the theme

"*There is something in the water*".

The Water Management Conference is an annual event providing local government with a broad range of information on water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by water utilities.

The conference presents an opportunity for councillors, local government professionals, government representatives and the broader industry to tackle key water management issues and discuss emerging issues in the water portfolio from a Local Government perspective.

The Water Directorate will be hosting the Forum again on Monday afternoon. We look forward to seeing many of our members at the Forum.

Topics that we plan to discuss include:

- NSW Planning System Review and s64 Developer Charges
- IPART Review of Water Supply, Sewerage and Stormwater Developer Charges Guidelines
- Reform of LWUs and Destination 2036
- Changes to the POEO Act relating to environmental incidents reports and management
- Changes to national work health & safety regulations.

For registration enquiries contact Karen Rolls or Pascale Vion on 9242 4000 or [events@lgsa.org.au](mailto:events@lgsa.org.au).

### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2012 LGSA EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Nominations for the 2012 LGSA excellence in the Environment Awards are now open. The Water Directorate sponsors the Environmental Best Practice for Local Water Utilities Award and would like to encourage



all of our member Councils to consider nominating a recent project in 2012.

The criteria for this award are:

- Demonstration of a proactive implementation of the gazetted NSW Best-Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines 2007.
- Demonstration of well-developed environmental systems and management plans.
- Submission of a project, study or plan, completed within the past 12 months, that demonstrates superior environmental management.
- Presentation of former projects that demonstrate environmental awareness and sensitivity.
- Reputation for leadership within the local government water and sewer industry.

Nominations are open until Monday 3 September and more detail about this award is available on the LGSA's Environment Awards webpage at [www.lgaconference.lgsa.org.au/events-training/environment-awards](http://www.lgaconference.lgsa.org.au/events-training/environment-awards).

The winning council project will be announced on Tuesday 4 December 2012 at a luncheon in Sydney hosted by the LGSA.

The Associations have held the annual Excellence in Environment Awards since 1998. This year there are 14 categories and the Awards culminate with the two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected Councillor in the field of sustainability.

Submit your entry online for all categories except the 'Sustainable Procurement Award' which councils are automatically entered as part of the Sustainable Choice program.

Please direct your queries regarding your nomination to me on 8267 3010 or [gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au).

### 2012 SAVEWATER! AWARDS®

The 2012 savewater! awards® are now open and will close on Friday 20th July. The savewater! awards® are a highly credible international awards program and include the prestigious Prime Minister's Water Wise Award.

The savewater! awards® are now in their tenth year and recognise and reward excellence in water-efficiency by business, government, schools, local communities and individuals.

This year there are nine categories, three of them are open to international nominations, and the category information is available on the savewater!® website at [www.savewater.com.au](http://www.savewater.com.au). For more information please contact Anne Nichols, National Marketing & Member Programs on 03 8508 6809 or [anichols@savewater.com.au](mailto:anichols@savewater.com.au).

### NEW CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS FOR NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION

In April COAG agreed to retain the NWC with a focus on the functions of audit, monitoring and assessment of water reform.

In June Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability & Urban Water, Senator Don Farrell, announced the appointment of a new Chair and reappointed commissioners.

Former South Australian Nationals MP and Minister for Water Security and the River Murray, Ms Karlene Maywald was appointed Commissioner and Chair for a three year term.

Australian Government-nominated Commissioner Mr Robert Freeman, former Chief Executive Officer of the MDBA, has been reappointed. The two Commissioners nominated by the states and territories – Professor Stuart Bunn, Director of the Australian Rivers Institute, and Mr Chris Davis, former CEO of the AWA – have also been reappointed. The Government will announce a fifth Commissioner as soon as the appointment process is completed.

Senator Farrell thanked outgoing Commissioners Ms Elaine Gardiner, Mr Lawrence Arthur, and Ms Sally Farrier for their efforts in overseeing the important work of the Commission. The appointments take effect from 1 July.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The remaining meetings in 2012 are 12 July, 13 September, and 7, 8 November. The AGM will be held on Thursday 8 November and all members are welcome to attend. An AGM notification will be sent in due course.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
June 2012  
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