

FEBRUARY 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.

JOINT WATER LOSS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WINS NSW AWA PROGRAM INNOVATION AWARD

The Joint WLMP concluded in June 2011 and achieved water savings of 5.518 billion litres per annum. In addition to significant water savings the Joint WLMP also improved the capacity of LWUs to undertake water loss projects and delivered infrastructure enhancements for many Councils.

It is very satisfying that the Joint WLMP won the NSW AWA Program Innovation Award at an awards dinner in Sydney on 16 February. The Program Innovation Award recognises projects of significant and innovative environmental or sustainable outcomes within the water industry.

As a winner of this award, the WLMP is now a finalist in the national AWA awards to be announced at the Ozwater Gala Dinner on Wednesday 9 May. We look forward to a successful evening and would like to thank Ian Maggs, former Program Manager, for the preparation of the award submission.

FINAL CALL FOR 6TH ANNUAL NSW WIOA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, TAMWORTH, 28-29 MARCH

WIOA's primary focus is to share information between people working in operational roles in the water and waste water industry. Please send your operators to this conference and come and see for yourself what makes this one of the most practical and valuable conferences around.

It is very pleasing to see the high level of interest in the NSW Operator of the Year award, sponsored by the Water Directorate. Ten nominees were received and the winner will be announced at the conference dinner in Tamworth on 28 March.

INNOVATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER AWARD AT THE IPWEA NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE, COFFS HARBOUR, 8 MAY

This year five outstanding nominations have been received from Wingecarribee, Dubbo, Cooma-Monaro, Eurobodalla and Glenn Innes Severn Councils. Good luck to all the nominees. We look forward to the announcement of the winner at the presentation dinner on Tuesday 8 May at Coffs Harbour. Contact Michelle Burgess, Events & Partnership Manager for more information on michelle@ipwea.org.au.

FINAL CALL FOR JOINT WATER DIRECTORATE/AWA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The winner of this award will attend Ozwater'12 in Sydney from 8-10 May 2012. The award comprises one full registration to Ozwater'12 valued at \$1,570 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 this newsletter or available on the website at www.waterdirectorate.asn.au The closing date is 30 March.

FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS – 2012 LGSA WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, WAGGA WAGGA, 22-24 JULY

The LGSA are calling for papers for the annual conference which provides an opportunity for councillors,

government representatives, Local Government professionals, and the broader industry to tackle key water management issues and discuss emerging issues in the water portfolio.

Councils and stakeholders are invited to forward papers and/or suggestions for consideration in the development of the. In particular, papers are invited on the main topics planned for the conference:

- Integrated water resource planning
- Review of regulatory and institutional arrangements for local water utilities in regional NSW

Papers must be not solely commercial in nature and can be sent before 30 March to sascha.moege@lgsa.org.au. For more information go to www.waterconference.lgsa.org.au.

AWA OZWATER'12, SYDNEY CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE, 8-10 MAY

Be part of Australia's most important annual event for the water industry organised by the water industry where the issues that drive the industry are discussed and future directions decided.

Ozwater'12 will feature inspirational international and national keynote speakers, numerous invited speakers, scientific and technical papers, case studies, workshops and poster sessions. This will be a great opportunity to network and engage with industry leaders and experts from all over Australia. For more information go to www.ozwater.org.

FINAL CALL FOR 2012 PIPES WAGGA EXPO & FIELD DAY, 13-14 MARCH

Flooded access permitting - this event is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. The first day is an Expo consisting of trade display booths with regular industry presentations taking place to

showcase their products. Papers will be delivered in a relaxed atmosphere with more networking encouraged. The second day will be a Field Day where participants will have access to practical demonstrations around Wagga Wagga.

There will also be social opportunities including Barefoot Bowls, Happy Hour, the Expo Dinner and entertainment. Pipes Wagga is a unique event that continues to focus on delivering successful outcomes for all stakeholders.

For program & registration information go to: www.pipeswagga.com.au/register.aspx. For the latest flood information contact Belinda King Expo Coordinator on or 0402 199 347 or admin@pipeswagga.com.au

STATE WATER'S METERING PROJECTS FOR MURRAY AND MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENTS

This news item is provided by a member Council to promote greater awareness of the details of NSW State Water's Metering Program – a COAG approved National Water Initiative.

State Water requires installation of meters that meet national water metering standards for non urban water and are consistent with national future measurement frameworks being developed namely NMI 10 & 11 & AS4747.

An extract of the "National Framework for Non-Urban Water Metering - Policy Paper (7th December 2009)" outlines the quality assurance framework that have been adopted as part of these projects. The full document may be accessed via the link:

www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/agriculture/pubs/national-framework-for-non-urban-water-metering.pdf.

State Water intends to install their own independent water meter and telemetry system to ensure compliance with the National Metering Framework (NMF) and to reduce liability issues by not connecting to LWU meters that either don't comply with the NMF or are being used for operational purposes such as chemical dosing, alarms etc. It is believed that State Water would prefer to install their own meters even if the LWU meters meet the NMF.

Extensive industry involvement and consultation included water authority representatives. The "National Framework for Non-Urban Water Metering - Final Regulatory

Impact Statement (18 June 2009)" may be accessed via the following link and describes the process:

www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/agriculture/pubs/final-ris-non-urban-water-metering.pdf.

Section 5 - Consultation notes that 21 submissions were received.

"Stocktake of Australia's Non-urban Water Metering Systems - Stocktake Report (May 2008)" provides the background information to the "National Framework for Non-Urban Water Metering - Policy Paper" and can be accessed via: www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/agriculture/pubs/stocktake-water-eter.pdf. "The NSW Metering Project - Social-economic Assessment" &

"Business Case" can be read at: www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-recovery/Sustaining-the-Basin/default.aspx. There may be some latitude to influence some decisions but may be limited to case-by-case onsite circumstances.

Installation will require payment of an annual maintenance fee of \$220-\$620/meter, depending on the telemetry sophistication at each location. There's also a possibility that these costs will vary in future to reflect the 'true' life cycle cost, especially for large and/or difficult installations.

New meters are being installed as per the NMF Policy Paper and there is little recognition of existing meters unless they can be demonstrated to comply. But even then, State Water is reluctant to share the meter especially when the meter is associated with operational requirements.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vacancies still exist on the Executive Committee for representatives from the Hunter and from the South West group of member councils.

I urge and invite interested senior water professionals or managers to consider attending a meeting as an observer on any of the following dates: 8 March, 7 May, 12 July, 13 September and 7/ 8 November.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
February 2012
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