

# WATER DIRECTORATE news

## AUGUST 2013

*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.*

### MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership fees are due for 2013/14 and invoices were sent out in July. The Executive Committee resolved that fees be increased by CPI in order to keep pace with inflation.

Thanks to the 85 member councils that have rejoined so far. We look forward again to providing newsletters, water advice, technical publications, submissions, awards, discussion forums, workshops and networking opportunities in 2013/14.

### LAST CALL FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, TERRIGAL, 8-10 SEPTEMBER

The Water Directorate will host the Water Managers Forum for the eleventh time on Monday afternoon. Topics that we plan to discuss include:

- Overview of legislation reviews
- Dam Safety Risk Management
- Street Openings
- Sewer Infiltration and Rehabilitation
- Standard Drawings

The panel looks forward to your input and discussion topic suggestions. For registration enquiries please contact Karen Rolls, Events Coordinator on 9242 4050 or [events@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:events@lgnsw.org.au).

### WORLD WATER WEEK, STOCKHOLM, 1-6 SEPTEMBER

World Water Week is an annual focal point for world water issues hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991.

At World Water Week over 200 collaborating organisations convene events and individuals present their findings at scientific workshops. This year's theme to be addressed is *Water Cooperation - Building Partnerships*.

At the 2013 Stockholm World Water Week next month, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) will launch a catalogue titled *Managing Water Use in Scarce Environments*.

Several months ago I was very pleased to be contacted by consultants in the UK seeking additional information on award winning water saving projects from around the world.

The consultants were considering including the Joint Water Loss Management Program (WLMP) in the catalogue and I look forward to seeing if a project that the Water Directorate was heavily involved in is listed in the catalogue when released.

Many of you will recall that the Joint WLMP was a statewide program that the Water Directorate, LGSA now known as LG NSW, and the Federal Government jointly managed from 2006 to 2011.

The WLMP achieved water savings of 5.5 billion litres per annum, improved the capacity of LWUs to undertake water loss projects and delivered infrastructure enhancements for many Councils. The joint WLMP won the NSW AWA Program Innovation Award in February 2012.

### FLUORIDATION QUERY RESPONSES

There was a lot of media attention in August given to fluoridation of water supplies on the NSW north coast. When dealing with fluoridation queries, the Centre for Oral Health is happy for councils to use their standard wording below and can help with more complex responses if needed.

*NSW Ministry of Health's policy on water fluoridation is that it is a safe, effective and equitable means of reducing dental decay at a population level. In 2007, the National Health and Medical Research Council, after*

*evaluating the latest scientific evidence, concluded that water fluoridation should continue as a primary tool in the prevention of dental decay.*

*The overwhelming weight of scientific evidence does not link water fluoridation at optimal levels (one part per million) to any health related problems. Your concerns have been noted; however NSW Ministry of Health remains committed to the promotion of water fluoridation as a public health measure in preventing tooth decay.*

*If you would like more information on water fluoridation I encourage you to visit the website [www.fluoridenow.com.au](http://www.fluoridenow.com.au)*

For useful references that councils may wish to include in their responses, see the NSW Health Fact Sheet at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/water\\_fluoridation.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/general/water_fluoridation.html)

For information on community support for fluoridation see [www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/fluoridation\\_support\\_repo.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/fluoridation_support_repo.pdf).

For the Australian Dental Association information on the benefits and safety of fluoridation see [www.ada.org.au/oralhealth/fln/fluoridation.aspx](http://www.ada.org.au/oralhealth/fln/fluoridation.aspx).

### WATER DIRECTORATE IS HOSTING A DAM SAFETY MANAGEMENT FORUM, SYDNEY, 9 OCTOBER

Feedback from our Dam Safety Management Workshops in Sydney and Ballina last year indicated strong support for further opportunities to network, share information and undertake projects such as checklists and guidelines for building and augmenting dams.

A dam safety management forum will be held in Sydney on 9 October and we hope to see as many representatives as possible from the 63 LWUs that own 136 prescribed dams in NSW. Details will be available shortly on the website at the Water Management Conference in Terrigal.

### **BACKFLOW AND CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES CLARIFICATION**

A revised version of the Water Directorate's Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Guidelines was issued in July.

Feedback from a member council regarding concerns that their current meter replacement program will meet the requirements of the standard brought the terminology of dual check valves vs double check valves to our attention for clarification. The query stemmed from fear that some meters only have a single check valve and that a dual check valve is an optional extra.

The Water Subcommittee's understanding is that dual check valves are built into most new meters and apply to low hazards such as normal residential applications whereas double check valves apply to medium hazards such as an in-ground tank.

When replacing meters, for a little extra cost, it is wise to install those with dual check valves. This becomes more relevant where domestic irrigation systems haven't been rated.

### **INTERNATIONAL WATERCENTRE MASTER OF INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT (MIWM) SCHOLARSHIPS**

Every year, IWC offers full-tuition scholarships for entry in the MIWM program. Applications are currently open until 1 October for domestic students. For details go to: [www.watercentre.org/scholarships](http://www.watercentre.org/scholarships).

### **INTERNATIONAL RIVER SYMPOSIUM, BRISBANE, 23-26 SEPTEMBER**

The 16th International Riversymposium provides an opportunity to look at the linkages that rivers provide to water-energy-food. It will also allow dialogue to continue and build the knowledge base and capacity to inform policy

decisions that must include trade-offs between river basin protection and sustainable water, energy and food security. For registrations go to [www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com).

### **LEADING-EDGE STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT, SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 10-12**

AWA is bringing LESAM 2013 to Sydney. LESAM 2013, organised through a partnership between the IWA Strategic Asset Management Network and AWA, will bring out the best of water professionals worldwide. From academics and researchers through to regulators, utility managers and more, LESAM 2013 will be a unique platform to learn, demonstrate innovative ideas and solutions, and create global connections.

This stellar event will engage the Australian & international water sector to collaborate and explore dynamic approaches to asset management while tackling the critical challenges that face our sector. LESAM 2013 will explore themes including efficiency, asset optimisation, emerging risks, climate change adaptation, economic assessment, regulatory intervention and more. For more information please contact Despina Hasapis on [info@lesam2013.org](mailto:info@lesam2013.org) or 9436 0055

### **GOOD NEWS FROM THE IPWEA INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE IN DARWIN**

Congratulations to Greg McDonald for winning the National Public Works Leader of the Year award at the Australasian IPWEA conference.

Greg is the Executive Director Infrastructure Management at Wyong Shire Council and is a Water Directorate Executive Committee member. Greg's winning streak continues on from winning the NSW Public Works Leader of the Year award at the NSW IPWEA conference in Terrigal.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The remaining meeting dates are 19 September and 6,7 November. In particular we welcome your project suggestions for discussion at the 7 November Planning Meeting.

Gary Mitchell  
Executive Officer  
August 2013

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