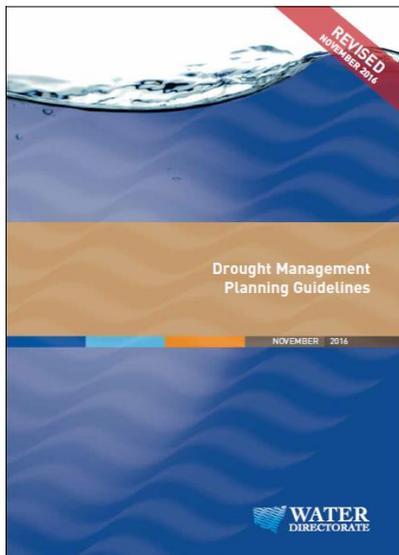


NOVEMBER 2016

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to over 140 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

LATEST PUBLICATION: DROUGHT MANAGEMENT PLANNING GUIDELINES

An updated version of our *Drought Management Guidelines 2003*, undertaken by HydroScience and WaterOz, was distributed to member Councils at the end of November.



This publication reflects changes in drought management since our original guidelines were produced. The publication includes a USB containing a Drought Management Plan template to enable members to customise the plan to meet their own requirements. All Water Directorate publications are available free to member Councils by logging in and going to the Bookshop.

NEXT PUBLICATION:

An updated O&M Manual combining both Submersible SPSs and Wet & Dry SPSs will be issued in early 2017.

BALLINA SHIRE WINS WATER CONSERVATION GONG AT LGNSW EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

In November LGNSW held their annual Environment Awards at Doltone House, Pyrmont. The highly coveted awards are now in their 19th year and recognise exceptional environmental achievements. The Water Directorate is pleased to sponsor and present again the Water Conservation category award for outstanding initiatives that have resulted in significant water savings.



Photo by Eventpix, Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards 2016 produced by LGNSW.

Congratulations to **Ballina Shire Council** awarded by judges as Division B Winner and Overall Category winner for their ***Pressure and Leakage Management Plan***.

This Plan has allowed Council to better monitor and control the underground water network and reduce water loss. Initial trials saw the establishment of three Pressure Management Zones with flow monitoring equipment detecting a major leak in one zone. Repairs led

to combined annual water savings of 134ML; an amount equivalent to 40 Olympic sized swimming pools. A business case analysis recommended construction of six new Pressure Management Zones and three new Demand Management Zones. Works were commissioned in Oct 15.

It is very gratifying to see this project win an award because it is evidence of the capacity building aspect of the 2006 to 2011 *Water Loss Management Program* undertaken in partnership by the Federal Government, LGNSW and the Water Directorate.

WORLD TOILET DAY

World Toilet Day was held in November to raise awareness of the importance of sanitation. A shocking one in three of the world's population do not have access to a safe and private toilet. WaterAid Australia does great work in addressing sanitation in developing nations and the Water Directorate encourages our member Councils to become WaterAid Australia members to support their cause. Subscribe to WaterAid Australia's free eNewsletter by going to [this website](#).

NSW ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES WATER AND SEWERAGE PROGRAM

This program started in 2008 and is a joint initiative of NSW Aboriginal Land Council and the NSW Government. More than \$200 million is being invested over 25 years for

routine operation, maintenance, monitoring, repairs and replacement of infrastructure.

The program is improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in discrete communities by providing safe and effective water and sewerage services that are equivalent to the standard expected in the wider community. The program provides services to more than 6,000 people in 61 discrete communities. I am pleased to advise that an additional community was added to this program in November.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE 2017 WIOA NSW OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

To reward your dedicated operators for doing great work protecting public health, please nominate them by 10 February 2017 to be the WIOA Operator of the Year. The WIOA Operator of the Year will be presented with a set of trophies at the 11th Annual WIOA Conference on 30 March 2017 at EPIC - the Exhibition Park in Canberra. The winner will also join the WIOA tour group and attend the Water Industry Operations Group (WIOG) New Zealand conference. **Attached is the nomination form that was mailed to member Councils with the hard copy of this newsletter.**

UPDATE TO LWUs ON THE DRAFT CONSULTATION PAPER ON MICROBIAL HBTs

In November an update from NSW Health and DPI Water was sent regarding the draft consultation paper on microbial HBTs considered for inclusion in the ADWGs. NSW Health has sent this update to their PHU network to share with LWUs. DPI Water will share the update with their regional staff.

NSW Health and DPI Water recommend that LWUs do not try to apply the existing draft HBT to their supply systems. LWUs with concerns about the adequacy of their treatment barriers should speak with NSW Health and DPI Water. The draft HBT could change considerably before it becomes part of the ADWGs. NSW Health and DPI Water will work together to develop appropriate implementation plans for the final HBT guidance.

The update also gives advice regarding reservoirs due to the four recent boil water alerts. At least three boil water alerts appear to have been caused by contamination from birds roosting or nesting in reservoirs. As required by DPI Water Circular LWU 18, LWUs should carry out careful internal/external inspections of their reservoirs ASAP.

OPERATING TIMES FOR NSW HEALTH LABS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The three NSW Health laboratories that provide testing for the *NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program* will be closed for the following dates over the Christmas period. Please ensure these dates are shared with all staff involved in water monitoring. Urgent samples can be accepted during this time. Contact your local PHU to arrange urgent testing during this period.

NSW FASS (NSW Forensic and Analytical Science Service) Will receive and test samples up to COB Thursday 22 December and close after completion of testing on Friday 23 December. Full service recommences Tuesday 3rd January. Please submit samples by Thursday 22nd December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

Pathology West (Wagga) Closed 23rd December until 3rd January. Full service recommences Tuesday 3rd January. Please submit samples by Thursday 22nd December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

Pathology North (Lismore) Closed 23rd Dec until 3rd January. Full service recommences Tuesday 3rd January. Please submit samples by afternoon Wednesday 21st December if you would like them to be processed before Christmas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In November the Water Directorate held its Annual Planning Meeting, AGM, and 2 monthly Executive Committee Meeting thereby completing the last 3 of our series of 7 meetings for the year. These meetings were also the last for the two year term.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The current Executive Committee two year term expires at the end of 2016. In November we called for nominations from the General Managers of our member Councils. We are seeking 18 dedicated senior Water and Sewer Managers to serve on the Executive Committee during 2017 and 2018. Senior Water and Sewer Managers who are interested in helping to produce strategic guidelines and manuals should consider this rewarding voluntary role.

Gary Mitchell
Executive Officer
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Please note that the Water Directorate has been located since May at Suite 1202, L12, 32 Walker St, Nth Sydney, 2060. Phone numbers are 9188 4390 & 9188 4391.