

NOVEMBER 2019

This newsletter is sent to General Managers and to Water and Sewer Managers in 89 regional Councils in NSW and also to 80 contacts in government departments and private industry across Australia.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Welcome to the November edition of the newsletter. Issues we have been working through this month on behalf of our members include:

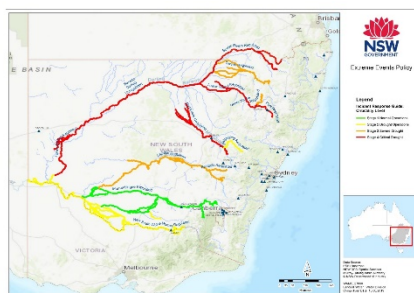
- Drought updates from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and WaterNSW.
- Adoption of a regional NSW code for water and sewerage based on the WSAA standards
- Water industry training.
- All options on the table
- Telcos on Tanks.
- Reform of water industry frameworks and regulations.

As always, we will keep you up to date on progress in future editions.

DROUGHT UPDATE

The number of towns with high risk of failure of water supply has increased to 33, with the inclusion of some towns on the north coast of NSW. Smaller towns continue to cart water by truck, whilst larger towns are urgently investing in emergency water supply works to strengthen water supplies.

More info is available via DPIE's [DroughtHub](#) page including activities of [Critical Water Advisory Panels](#). More [drought information sessions](#) have been held in a number of towns across October and November. A final statewide webinar will be broadcast on **3 December 2019** from 2pm to 3.30pm.



Drought levels on NSW inland rivers

It is important to keep your DPIE [Regional Manager](#) up to date on your situation to access any assistance you need.

Unfortunately, the outlook is not any better in the next 2 to 3 months. The November to January outlook from BOM is available [here](#).

STATE WATER STRATEGY

On 25 October CEO of Water Dr Jim Bentley wrote to all Councils seeking input on the development of a *State Water Strategy* for NSW by 22 November.

Water Directorate has made a submission covering numerous strategic issues, particularly calling for regulatory reform and better cross agency cooperation. We look forward to seeing the next steps in the strategy development process.

NSW PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION COMMENTS ON NSW WATER INDUSTRY

The NSW Productivity Commissioner has released a [Discussion Paper](#) titled *Kickstarting the productivity conversation*. Priority Area 2 in the discussion paper was 'Reliable, sustainable and productive use of our water and energy'. Water Directorate has worked closely with LG NSW, with each making a submission. The next steps will involve a *Productivity Green Paper* followed by a *Productivity White Paper* which will make final recommendations to government.

CALLING ALL REGIONAL YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS

Did you ever want to ask leaders in the water industry a question, but didn't know how to approach them?

AWA are launching a series of NSW YWP events, [Lunch with Legends: A Webinar Series for Young Water Professionals](#), on 13 December, online via Zoom.

Legend of Water Dr Christobel Ferguson will be answering questions about her experiences and providing advice to young water professionals.

In addition, AWA and Water Directorate want to connect regional Young Water Professionals through an informal 'e-network' being facilitated by Katie Bell from Singleton Council. Interested YWPs can [email me](#) and I will put you in touch.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-19

We were pleased to table our [2018-19 Annual Review](#) at our Annual General Meeting on 14 November. We have had a strong focus on implementing the [Water Directorate Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#) during the year.

Our priority actions also included generating a number of publications:

- *Operations and Maintenance Manual for Water Reticulation*, August 2018
- *Building in the Vicinity of Sewer and Trunk Water Mains Guidelines*, February 2019
- *Work Health and Safety Management Guidelines*, April 2019

Our publications are available for [free download for members](#) or through our [online Bookshop](#).

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

On the day before our AGM, our Executive Committee met to discuss strategic issues, including the State Water Strategy, planning for future technical publications and also held a workshop on governance and review of our Constitution, facilitated by the Associations Forum.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE STRATEGY

NSW benefits from critical infrastructure that provides secure and reliable essential services, which includes water and sewerage infrastructure.



NSW Local Water Utilities have needed to cope with a combination of fires and drought in recent months.

We are working with the Energy and Utilities Functional Area (EUSFA) to identify critical infrastructure and improve resilience.

IN THE NEWS

- [Every Drop Is Sacred](#), Minister Pavey's opinion piece
- [80% of household water goes to waste - we need to get it back](#)

- [Scrapping overpuddles - the desperate battle for water in NSW's towns](#)
- [Ripping up Murray-Darling plan would ignore the lessons of history](#)
- [NSW govt flooded with bore requests ahead of summer](#)
- [Recycling facility secures Parkes' water future](#)

REGIONAL NSW WATER AND SEWERAGE CODES

Our hardworking WSAA codes subcommittee has completed a draft water supply code for regional NSW covering planning, design and construction of water supply network assets. It is intended to launch the code in early 2020 in a new e-book format.

We will then proceed with a draft sewerage code in a similar fashion by mid-2020.

2020 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **AWA/IWA Australia-BZ YWP conference**, Brisbane 12-13 March
- **Ozwater '20** Adelaide, 5-7 May

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tentative dates for 2020, venues to be confirmed:

- Thursday 12 March
- Thursday 7 May (clash with Ozwater '20)
- Thursday 9 July
- Thursday 10 September
- Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 November

Brendan Guiney
Executive Officer

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