

AUGUST 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 August edition of the newsletter. Issues we have been working through this month on behalf of our members include:

- We had a number of members attend the AWA NSW State Conference in Orange
- Drought updates from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and WaterNSW.
- Progressing consideration of recycled water for drinking as an option.
- Water industry training
- Telcos on Tanks
- Prioritisation of upcoming Water Directorate technical projects.
- Reform of water industry frameworks and regulations.

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

DROUGHT UPDATE

The NSW Government has announced a \$78 million investment for emergency drought initiatives in the Macquarie, Namoi, Peel and Border Rivers Valleys.

The [announcement](#) included projects for Dubbo, Wellington, Nyngan, Cobar, Tooraweenah, Orange, Bathurst, Narromine, and Bogan.



On longer term strategies, an article in the Daily Telegraph on 6 August 2019 quoted a letter NSW Water Minister Melinda Pavey had written to the Deputy Prime Minister asking for Commonwealth assistance with \$4 billion of the state's priority projects, which included:

- \$1.3 billion for raising Pindari Dam in the Border Rivers catchment,
- \$756 million for an inter-basin transfer from the Barnard River in the Manning valley to Chaffey Dam in the Peel catchment,
- \$484 million for a new Dungowan Dam in Tamworth,
- \$355 million for a new dam on the Upper Mole River in the Northern Tablelands,

- \$355 to augment Brogo Dam on the South Coast.

These projects, recommended by the Minister for investigation by WaterNSW were all listed as options in [WaterNSW's 20 Year Options Study](#) in 2018.

LG NSW WATER MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The conference is currently underway with invited government representatives including:

- Minister for Water, Property and Housing, The Hon Melinda Pavey MP
- Regional Town Water Supply Coordinator, DPC, James McTavish
- Chief Executive Officer – Water, DPIE, Dr Jim Bentley (pictured below)



- Manager Water Unit, NSW Health, Dr Paul Byleveld PSM
- Manager, Regional Water Strategies, DPIE, Darcy Moar.

We will update you next month after the conference.

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND BIOSOLIDS PARTNERSHIP

The [ANZBP](#) is a great source of information for wastewater professionals managing the beneficial use of biosolids.

The ANZBP has been active in the area of contaminants of concern (including PFAS) in biosolids in recent times to reflect best practice in biosolids management.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIERS

While Local Water Utilities will be aware of NSW Health's [requirements](#), new provisions came into effect last year to clarify requirements for [private water supplies](#) and [water carters](#). The latter two suppliers are often regulated by a different section of Council. NSW Health will be engaging with Councils through the local Public Health Units to discuss training, guidance and resources for regulation of these drinking water suppliers.

IN THE NEWS

- [Worst-case plan for Tamworth water](#)
- Call for [Ozwater'20](#) papers announced
- [Young Australian inventor wins Stockholm Junior Water Prize](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA AUDIT 2019 REPORT OUT

The [Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019](#) was recently issued. The link above jumps

straight to the section on water. Water Directorate continues to have concerns about how NSW local water utilities are represented in the report by Infrastructure Australia and will make a submission.

TELCOS ON TANKS

Last month, we asked for your feedback on the impacts of 'telco' facilities on your utility. The Water Directorate's role is to demonstrate the serious risks to your water reservoir integrity due to telecoms stakeholders. If you have a 'telco' facility attached to your tank, I urge you to please [email me](#) with your evidence so we can help.

LWU PERFORMANCE MONITORING DATA

Reporting for the 2018/19 year has opened using the LWU Performance Reporting Portal, and will close on **7 October 2019**.

Performance information on the previous 17/18 year is now available on the [DPIE website](#) in a new dashboard format that allows you to modify the charts.

DPIE welcomes feedback on either initiative by email at: LWU.PerformanceReporting@dpi.nsw.gov.au

AWA LEGENDS OF WATER

We were pleased to hear the announcement of experienced regional NSW water professional Andrew Francis, Director

Infrastructure of Parkes Shire Council has been announced as one of the three [NSW Legends of Water for 2019](#).



This is a great night out. Follow the link above to find out more and register support our regional legend!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **NSW Young Water Professionals Mentoring Program**, 9 October
- **AWA NSW Legends of Water 2019**
Sydney, 31 October
- **12th National Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference**
Perth, 16-19 September
- **AWA Newcastle Water Industry Networking Night** Newcastle, 22 October
- **IPWEA (NSW Div) Annual Conference**
Hunter Valley, 6-8 November

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Remaining meeting dates for 2019 are:

- Thursday 12 September
- Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November

Brendan Guiney
Executive Officer
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