



Wednesday 11 April

Media Release

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) will stage its **37th Annual Queensland Water Industry Operations Workshop and Exhibition** at parklands on the Gold Coast on 6 & 7 June 2012. The conference Awards dinner on the Thursday evening will include the announcement of the prestigious Queensland Operator of the Year, Queensland Operator of the Year (Civil) and the Young Operator of the Year.

This event is staged at different locations across Queensland annually with the Gold Coast to host the workshop that is expected to attract more than 600 water professionals to the region for the two days.

The main focus of the conference will be to provide access and share the latest in ideas, equipment and technology available to operators of water and wastewater systems. This conference will bring many regional and metropolitan councils together to discuss education and training, preservation of clean waterways and protection of public health and the environment accumulation and distribution of technological information. The knowledge gained at the event will be utilised to implement better quality, more efficient and more reliable operational systems for all areas of the state.

The conference will be officially opened by Mr Kevin Wormald from the Wujal Wujal Council who will examine the issues of managing water and wastewater for rural and remote councils. The Keynote addresses will be delivered by Associate Professor John Hamilton, Dr Carrie Lui and Dr Colin Lemmon from James Cook University with a presentation on enhanced interactive training options for the water industry.

In all, there will be eighteen Platform Papers over the two days delivered by engineers, water and wastewater treatment plant operators, scientists and staff from product suppliers discussing a wide range of issues.

A highlight of the event will be the **Grand Final of the Orica Australia Best of the Best Queensland Water Taste Test** that will be conducted over lunch on Thursday 7th June at 12.30pm. Hosted by the Queensland Water Directorate, six regional finalists from around the state will compete to earn the title of the **Best Tasting Tap water in Queensland for 2012**.

A comprehensive Trade Display will fill Jupiters Pavilion at Parklands to capacity with over 100 trade sites. Companies will exhibit the latest in equipment, services and process technologies available to the water, wastewater and liquid conveyancing industries.

This conference is being hosted by qldwater with major sponsorship provided by the Automation Group, Peerless Epigen, Xylem and Acromet Australia.

Entry to the exhibition is free to the general public and persons who may have an interest in the Trade Displays are invited to attend between 10.00am - 3pm on Wednesday 6th June and Thursday 7th June.

This annual conference ensures that staff employed at Water Authorities and Councils around Queensland are kept up-to-date with the latest processes, equipment and technology to allow them to deliver quality services to the customer in an efficient manner.

Further details on the Conference can be obtained from the WIOA Office on (03) 5821 6744 or by contacting Craig Mathisen on 0457 846 008 or from the website www.wioa.org.au.

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