



Published by the Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA)

WIOA WORDS

MARCH 2020 Edition

24 New Dookie Road
Shepparton, Victoria
PO Box 6012
Shepparton, Victoria 3632

+61 3 5821 6744



+61 3 5821 6033



info@wioa.org.au



www.wioa.org.au



Snippets, news items or other information can be sent to info@wioa.org.au

Over the past few weeks, the world has experienced upheavals not seen for a century. Everything is changing rapidly and our thoughts are with those severely impacted.

WIOA has been reviewing, responding, rescheduling, and planning for the ongoing supply of services and member benefits. All staff are now working from home and we, like most organisations are building business processes that will enable us to support you, our members.

While we all work through this difficult time, we are grateful for the role all our members play in the provision of essential services to our communities – we salute you.

It is also important that WIOA can continue to communicate effectively with all our members.

For all members already receiving electronic communications, it is increasingly important that we have a unique email address in our membership database. If you would rather our communication go to your home email instead of a work account, please let us know by emailing abbey@wioa.org.au.



WIOA has **cancelled the 2020 NSW Conference in Tamworth** and the **2020 Queensland Conference in Toowoomba**. The **Victorian Conference** in Bendigo has been **postponed to 25 & 26 November 2020**.



Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

A COVID-19 Information and Resources page has been established on the WIOA website. We will continue to monitor developments and will update the page as further information comes to hand. WIOA is here to support you and your organisation, so if we can assist you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19 Information and Resources: wioaconferences.org.au/covid-19/

AROUND THE TRAPS

Members are reminded that this is the last chance to pay your **annual fees for 2020 which were due on 1st January**. A reminder has been sent out recently and any member not financial will have their details removed from the member database and will not receive any further correspondence.



The **2020 WIOA Annual General Meeting** will be held online on Tuesday 21 April 2020 commencing at 2.00pm. Members are encouraged to attend the AGM where you can find out more about your association. Register by 20 April 2020 at wioa.org.au/about-wioa/agm/



At the close of nominations for the **2020 WIOA Committee**, we received two nominations for Vice President and eight nominations for the five available committee positions. An online election will be conducted for the Vice President and then the Committee positions. More information from the candidates will be provided for members and all financial individual members will have the opportunity to vote online to help fill these very important positions.

The **NSW Environment Protection Authority** (NSW EPA) invites members to have your say on how it proposes to require and estimate financial assurances. This may be relevant to members that are regulated by the NSW EPA under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997, the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 or the Radiation Control Act 1990. Comments and submissions close on 14 April 2020. For copies of the draft policy and guideline, answers to frequently asked questions, visit the consultation website at <https://yoursay.epa.nsw.gov.au/assurances>



The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) is undertaking consultation on possible approaches to **managing disinfection by-products (DBPs) in Australian drinking water supplies**. Your feedback will help inform a revision of Section 6.3.2 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), alongside a rolling review of related fact sheets and guideline values for DBPs. The stakeholder consultation paper is available at <https://tinyurl.com/sj65dcb> with feedback received until COB Friday 15 May 2020 at water@nhmrc.gov.au



Congratulations to the team from **Mackay Regional Council**, Winner of Australia's Best Tasting Tap Water in 2019. The sample from their Marian WTP was entered in the **International Water Tasting competition** held in the USA in February. In another great result for the Australian Water Industry they came away with the **Silver Medal** in the Municipal Water category.

WIOA AWARDS

For members in Queensland, applications are being sought for the **Operator of the Year** awarded by AWA and the **Young Operator of the Year** and **Operator of the Year Civil/All Rounder**, both sponsored by **qldwater**. Employers are encouraged to nominate staff you believe to be deserving of this recognition. More information and forms are available at: wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/queensland-awards



Following cancellation of the WIOA New South Wales and Queensland Conferences, award presentations normally undertaken at the conferences have been delayed. This includes the announcement of the **NSW Operator of the Year**, the **Queensland Operators of the Year** and the **PASS Award** winners. We will work with the award sponsors and present the awards at another event in each State later in the year.



At the close of applications, we received 11 entries for the **2020 PASS Award** generously sponsored by Aqualift Project Delivery. The award shares and showcases the good ideas of members, with all entries made into a booklet for distribution to members. This will be distributed after the winner is announced.



Applications are being sought for the **Kwatye Award**, sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award recognises an initiative involving any cultural or diversity and inclusion-based activities within a project or community in which our members serve. The award focuses on those who have gone above and beyond to further inclusion, connection and belonging for co-workers, members of the community and people from disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Applications close on 20 July 2020 with more information available at wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/

EVENTS

Abstracts for WIOA conferences can be submitted at any time prior to the official closing date. We are currently seeking abstracts for platform and poster presentations for the WIOA Victorian conference in November. We encourage potential presenters to submit your abstracts early and more information is available from the website at wioaconferences.org.au/call-for-papers

TRAINING COURSES

The **Activated Sludge and Nutrient Removal Course** staged by **pH Water** has been postponed due to travel restrictions and limitations on gatherings. A date for the deferred course has not been determined however, December is the likely earliest time. Those delegates already registered for the course will have places held. Registrations of interest can be sent to peter@phwater.com.au



The **IWES Short Courses** proposed to be staged in July 2020 have been postponed to 23-27 November 2020. The early bird discount for attendees has been extended through to 21 September 2020. For more information on the range of courses or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-2020/>

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Australian family-owned business **Aerofloat** on winning a 2019 Consensus GreenTech Award for its innovative design for treating and recycling process wastewater generated in the plastics recycling industry. For more information contact Katie Moor at Aerofloat on 0400 105 438 or email katie.moor@aerofloat.com.au



Calix has created their own series of webinars so you can take advantage of their know-how without leaving your home or office. Register for their first webinar covering how to address odour issues and hydrogen sulphide in municipal wastewater at <https://www.calix.global/news/join-our-webinar/>



We are always seeking contributions from members for the **WIOA Operator newsletter**. Items can be a technical piece, case study or just a story or anecdote that is worth sharing with all WIOA members. Please send any ideas for articles to Craig at the WIOA office.

POSITIONS VACANT - For information on these positions visit <http://wioa.org.au/positions-vacant/>

Current positions vacant include positions for a Water Headworks Operator, Senior Engineer Infrastructure Project Systems, Indigenous Operations and Maintenance Trainee, Project Manager Water and Sewer, Strategy and innovation Professional and various Team leader positions. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

IMPORTANT DATES - Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 16 April **WIOA Elections conclude** at 5.00pm online
- 21 April **WIOA Inc Annual General Meeting**, online at 2.00pm AEST
- 1 May **Qld Operator of the Year Awards application** closes
- 20 July **Kwatye Applications** close

2020 Conference & Exhibition Schedule

- 25 & 26 Nov **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



Become a friend of WIOA on **FACEBOOK** and follow us on **TWITTER** or **Linked In**

KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE. If your phone number, mailing address or email address has changed please email Abbey your new details (abbey@wioa.org.au) or call the office on 03 5821 6744.