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WIOA WORDS

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AROUND THE TRAPS

At their July meeting, the Water Industry Operator Certification Taskforce (WIOCT) in their role as the national Certification Framework owner, extended the tenure of WIOA as the Certifying Body for Operators nationally for a further 5 years, ending 30 June 2026.



As India faces another deadly wave of COVID-19, **WaterAid** is urgently scaling up work to bring clean water, toilets and hygiene facilities to those needing it the most. With cases rising every day, many people are fleeing cities to seek safety in rural areas, causing the virus to spread even further. This threatens to overburden already stretched local health centres, with weak infrastructures, to manage such a crisis. WaterAid has an emergency appeal for funds to help repair existing infrastructure and install new temporary facilities, such as water storage units, handwashing stations and additional mobile toilets in 50 healthcare centres. You can donate via <https://tinyurl.com/tudwjbuw>



The national **Drinking Water Operator Certification Framework** was originally developed in 2012, and Certification was the adopted name as it most accurately reflected the agreed need of the water industry at the time. Since then, there has been growing confusion over the use of the term Certification. Many individuals hold a Certificate II or III, but that doesn't mean they are, or can be, "Certified" under the Framework. Certification actually requires operators to have all the units of competency relevant to the specific treatment processes they operate, and a commitment to an ongoing skills development program.

Following a recent WIOCT Taskforce meeting, draft amendments have been made to the Framework including a proposed name change to "Registration" to avoid some of the confusion. Under the proposed changes, Operators "Certified" under former Frameworks will be automatically recognised as "Registered Professional Operators" provided the conditions of previous Framework versions, including timeframes, remain met. The only other Framework amendments include revised listings of units of competency to reflect recent updates to the National Water Training Package (NWP). A copy of the updated draft Registration Framework is available at <https://wioa.org.au/certification/> If you have feedback you'd like to provide on the amendments, please submit them to dcameron@qldwater.com.au by 5pm 20 August.



We have received numerous enquiries about the **WIOA Victorian Conference** planned for Bendigo on 1 & 2 September 2021. At this stage we anticipate that the event will go ahead in September, and we are continually monitoring the COVID situation and the Victorian Government health advice and restrictions on events and gatherings. We have also secured an alternative booking with the venue for the week of 22-26 November 2021 in case the restrictions stop the event from proceeding in September. We will keep all our stakeholders informed in the coming weeks.

The ABS will conduct the next Census on 10 August 2021. The number of staff in the water industry is significantly under counted due to the lack of water specific occupations recognised by the ABS. We encourage all operational staff in the water industry to use one of the 28 occupational titles listed in the Water Industry Occupational Framework when completing the census form. The list of job titles and more information is available at: <https://wioa.org.au/anzsco/>



New **Default Guideline Values (DGVs) for three toxicants** are now published on the ANZG Water Quality website including Boron in freshwater <https://tinyurl.com/yxk58zua>; Glyphosate in freshwater <https://tinyurl.com/5yctp4fs>; and Metsulfuron-methyl in freshwater <https://tinyurl.com/2m45vw2c>. After the public consultation period, the DGVs were revised and are now published as final for inclusion in the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality.



On behalf of the Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC), Australian Industry Standards has released the **Water Industry Outlook** which identifies the priority skill needs of the water industry following a research and stakeholder consultation process. The Industry Outlook provides an overview of industry trends, new and emerging skills needs as well as the IRC's proposed Training Package development to address these workforce needs. The Outlook is available at <https://tinyurl.com/4dwc424s> and it includes a short video by Jason Ip on behalf of the IRC outlining the key issues.



After 18 rounds in both the **AFL and NRL** seasons, the **WIOA Tipping competitions** are very close at the top. Leading the NRL with a score of 102 is Trent Geissler from Kirk Galbraith on 101. There are equal leaders in the AFL competition, also with a score of 102, in Ian Mathieson and Trent Barras from two others on 101. With just over a hand full of rounds until the end of the year, good luck to all the tipsters.

EVENTS

The program for the **83rd Victorian Water Operations Conference and Exhibition** has now been finalised and delegate registrations are now being accepted. The conference will open with a presentation by Dean Barnett, Program Director of the Intelligent Water Network talking about innovation in the water industry. The keynote address by Dr David Rayner from Thermo Fisher Scientific will discuss the use of wastewater testing to monitor pathogens to control community spread. The program and information about delegate registrations is available from the WIOA website <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2021/vic-delegates/>



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar will focus on **the use of Anammox in wastewater treatment** and will be held on Wednesday 21 July at 11am (AEST). Urban Utilities identified Anammox as an opportunity to significantly reduce the nitrogen load to the Luggage Point STP, increase nitrogen treatment capacity and reduce operating costs. Justin Todhunter will discuss the challenges and learnings gained during the up-scaling and operation of pilot-scale anammox systems and the implementation of Australia's first Full-Scale municipal anammox system. Register for the webinar by visiting <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/anammox/>



Victorian Water Corporations are invited to enter teams of 2 competitors into the **3rd Victorian Main Tapping Competition** (supported by Coliban Water, Lend Lease and Reece Civil) that will be conducted as part of the Victorian Conference in Bendigo. The fastest team will have \$1,000 donated to a charity of their choice, as well as having their names engraved into the perpetual trophy. Check out the WIOA website for more information - <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-main-tapping-competition/>

WIOA invites all Victorian water suppliers to participate in the **2021 Ixom Victorian Best Tasting Tap Water Competition** with heats to be held at the WIOA Victorian conference in Bendigo on 31 August and the Grand Final at lunch time on 1 September 2021.



The annual **Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Water Management Conference** has been postponed until 29 September to 1 October 2021. The conference presents local government attendees with a broad range of information on water policy, water management and issues associated with water supply and sewerage services provided by council-owned and operated local water utilities. For the program, accommodation options or to register visit the LG NSW website at <https://tinyurl.com/2u56bw3m>

WIOA AWARDS 2021

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 30 July 2021 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/kwatye-award/>



The Victorian Branch of AWA is calling for nominations for the 2021 **Wal Whiteside Memorial, Victorian Operator of the Year Award** and the Institute of Water Administration, Victoria is also calling for nominations for the **Young Victorian Operator of the Year Award**. We encourage as many organisations as possible to nominate your operational staff for consideration for these prestigious awards. Applications close on 2 August 2021 and a form is at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/state-awards/victorian-awards/>



Applications are being sought for the new **WIOA Team of the Year Award**, sponsored by **TRILITY**. The award will recognise teams of employees working in any part of the water industry that have made an outstanding contribution to their workplace or community. Teams may be recognised for a range of activities like; implementation of new infrastructure and solutions; maintaining services through difficult times such as weather events, fires, and the pandemic; providing support to their communities, other employees, other businesses, or the water industry; or development of innovative programs or initiatives as examples. The winner will be announced at the WIOA NSW Conference in Tamworth in October. Applications close on 10 September 2021 with more information available at <https://wioa.org.au/awards/national-awards/team-year/>

TRAINING COURSES

Applications and Scholarships for the International Water Centre's **Water Leadership Program (WLP)** are now open. Commencing on 1 December 2021, the award-winning nine-month program helps emerging leaders to develop the ability to exert influence, drive change and advance challenging integrated water management projects – abilities associated with the most effective integrated water management leaders. Designed to build your capacity to continually develop as a water industry leader over your career, it features a balance between academic and real-world approaches to learning. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/tpecty6r>

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

There are a number of positions vacant currently advertised on the WIOA website including several **Operator positions, a variety of Engineering roles and an Electrician**. To utilise this FREE job advertisement placement service, please email your advert to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Treadwell Group invites all Members to register for their July webinar to be held on 22 July 2021 at 1.00pm (ACST) and runs for 15 minutes. The topic is their ArchitEX™ Structural Selection and Deflection Tool. The tool readily available on their website, and is designed to assist clients by taking the guesswork out of selecting the appropriate structural profile for your project needs. Register and attend for free now at <https://tinyurl.com/5a969nue> They'll have experts on hand to answer any questions you may have.



Congratulations to **Xylem** for recently winning the "**Water Project of the Year**" award for its work to modernise the Orly drinking water treatment plant in Paris, France. The Global Water Award is presented to the water project that demonstrates the greatest innovation in terms of optimising its physical or environmental footprint. The Orly water treatment plant accounts for approximately 25% of the water supply in the Paris region. More about the award and the Orly plant is at <https://tinyurl.com/287zfu5p>

2021 EVENTS Check out the events calendar online, visit <https://wioa.org.au/wioa-events/>

- 21 July **WIOA Talks Webinar - Anammox**, online
- 30 July **Kwatye Applications** close
- 19 August **WIOA Talks Webinar - UV Disinfection**, online
- 10 September **WIOA Team of the Year Applications** close
- 22 September **WIOA Talks Webinar - Extreme Events**, online

2021 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS

- 1 & 2 Sept **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo
- 27 & 28 October **14th WIOA NSW Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Tamworth



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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.