



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

WIOA WORDS

SEPTEMBER 2021 Edition

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AROUND THE TRAPS

We have received numerous enquiries about the **WIOA Victorian Conference** planned for Bendigo on 24 & 25 November 2021. We are continually monitoring the COVID situation and the Victorian Government health advice and restrictions on events and gatherings. At this stage, we are still hopeful that the event will be able to proceed in November. We will keep our stakeholders informed of any developments in the coming weeks.



WIOA is participating in a Standards Australia working group led by WSAA to draft a **standard for Flushable Products**. The group includes experts from the water sector and the flushable products industry. A draft standard (AS/NZS 5328:, Flushable Products) has now been released for public review and comment. Comments are being accepted from 30 August until 1 November. Interested persons can view and/or download draft documents and provide any comments through Standards Australia's Public Commenting Management system (PCMS). To access the PCMS you will need to have a Standards Australia account/profile. There is a simple self-registration process that can be accessed via <https://tinyurl.com/xssb3s3v>



The Productivity Commission has released the **National Water Reform 2020 Report**. The report assesses the progress of the Australian, State and Territory governments since 2017 towards achieving the objectives and outcomes of the National Water Initiative (NWI). It also provides practical advice to Australian governments on future directions for national water reform through renewal of the NWI. The report and a copy of all the submissions is available from www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/water-reform-2020/report



The Water Industry Reference Committee requested funding for **additional water network maintenance and flood site operations units** in the National Water Package. With funding now approved, Australian Industry Standards (AIS) is seeking expressions of interest for subject matter experts to join the Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) to help develop the units. For more information on either project or to register an EOI for either TAC closing 15 September 2021, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/fchrr4xc> for the Networks project or <https://tinyurl.com/9bn6ew3k> for the flood site project.



The Department of Education, Skills and Employment is conducting consultations to inform work to modernise training product design, retaining and building upon the existing strengths of the vocational education and training (VET) system. The **Qualifications Reform Survey** is open until 20 September 2021 and seeks views on how new training product design concepts might work in practice. You may answer all the questions or just those of most relevance or interest to you. Your feedback will inform advice to Skills Ministers and future approaches to qualification design, and help ensure the needs of employers and learners are better met now and in the future. <https://tinyurl.com/hrtvh7ce>

What would you do if your closest water source was more than half an hour away? This is a daily reality for millions, but it doesn't have to be. This October, will you Walk, Run or Ride for Water? Help support WaterAid Australia to generate much needed funds to keep their very important projects happening around the globe. For more information on the Walk for Water initiative, visit <https://tinyurl.com/r46bv6hy>

WIOA AWARDS 2021

The NSW Water Directorate is now calling for nominations for the **2021 NSW Operator of the Year Award**. We encourage all NSW organisations to nominate their operational staff for consideration for this very prestigious award. Nominations close on 24 September with the winner receiving an all expenses paid opportunity to join the WIOA contingent on their tour of New Zealand courtesy of sponsor, the NSW Water Directorate. Here's hoping the borders open soon so that they can go on the trip in May 2022. More information and an application form can be downloaded from the NSW Water Directorate website at <https://tinyurl.com/44dszt8s>

EVENTS

The delegate registration form for the **83rd Victorian Water Industry Operations Conference and Exhibition** on 24 & 25 November in Bendigo is available from <https://wioaconferences.org.au/vic-2021/vic-delegates/> There will be a host of important and informative platform and poster papers presented. The Best Tasting Tap Water and the Mains Tapping Competition will also be hotly contested events. The exhibition is huge with all 172 sites occupied by companies supplying some of the best and most innovative products and technology available to the water industry.



The seventh annual **Far North Queensland Operations Interest Day** followed by an optional **TRILITY sponsored Barefoot Bowls** afternoon will be held at the West Cairns Bowls Club on Friday 8 October 2021. We encourage all WIOA members in the FNQ region to support this event. Corporate members wishing to sponsor the bowls day should contact George or Craig at WIOA. The exciting and very diverse technical program for the day, as well as registration details can be accessed at <https://wioa.org.au/fnqbows>



The **Call for Papers for Ozwater'22** in Brisbane on 10-12 May 2022, will close on 20 September. Abstracts are being accepted in one of 13 diverse sub-themes, including Operations which encompasses treatment and practices to ensure the needs of customers and communities. For more information and how to get involved, visit <https://www.ozwater.org/>



The next **WIOA Talks** webinar focusing on **contingency planning around extreme events** will be held on Thursday 22 September at 11am (AEST). There will be presentations by Tommie Conway and Aaron Ward from Melbourne Water along with Peter Thomas Yarra Valley Water. They will discuss operational issues encountered and the effectiveness of their contingency plans during the extreme storm events in Victoria in June 2021 were. Register for the webinar at <https://wioa.org.au/nevent/wioa-talks-extreme-events/>



The Queensland Water Directorate has a **Special Webinar on Progress with COVID Sewage Surveillance** on 28 September from 1:30 - 2:30pm on Sewage Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2. They have update presentations on the national Collossos program (Dan Deere) and the Queensland-wide monitoring organised through Queensland Health (Jochen Mueller, UQ). This is a great chance to catch up on how the sewer monitoring is being used to trace COVID outbreaks and how the information (and samples) that operators are providing are being used. Register at <https://ipweaq.eventsair.com/qwd-essentials-webinars-registrations/essentials>

TRAINING COURSES

Scholarship applications for International Water Centre's Water Leadership Program close in ONE WEEK! The Water Leadership Program (WLP) is an award-winning, annual program that 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, this nine-month program features a balance between academic and real-world approaches to learning. The course commences 1 December 2021 and runs for 9 months. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/yfdcryws>



The **Australian Water School** has a suite of webinars, on-demand and live training courses coming up in the next couple of months focusing on significant, innovative or critical advances in water science, technology and management. Their updated website at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xfjke6> allows everyone to browse their wide-ranging portfolio of live and on-demand courses, including free copies of past webinars, with ease.



The **IWES Gold Coast program** originally scheduled from 12-16 July 2021 has been postponed until 27 September to 8 October 2021 and has now gone completely online. Even though the event is not subject to physical seating limitations, they are still limiting places in each course to ensure that each participant receives adequate teaching and question time. For more information on the range of courses or to register, visit <https://iwes.com.au/events/iwes-gold-coast-12-16-july-2021/>

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

Current positions vacant exist in Victoria and Queensland including positions for Operators, Engineers along with a Water Industry Trainer role. To utilise this FREE job placement service, email your job ad to sherryn@wioa.org.au

PEOPLE & CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

Treadwell has a webinar explaining the different FRP Grating Types along with which grating and resin system are best suited for different applications. The webinar is being held on 16 September 2021 from 1.00pm (ACST). You can register for the webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/chjs3huw>

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

- 22 September **WIOA Talks Webinar - Extreme Events**, online
- 24 September **NSW Operator of the Year**, nominations close
- 6 October **WIOA Talks Safety Webinar (WISE)**, online
- 8 October **FNQ Operations Interest Day and Optional Barefoot Bowls**, Cairns
- 24 November **Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria competition**, Bendigo
- 24 & 25 November **83rd WIOA VIC Water Industry Operations Conference & Exhibition**, Bendigo



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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.