

# Bulletin

August 2011  
Edition



IPWEAQ Excellence Awards 2010  
Western Downs Regional Council & Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Dalby Wastewater Recycling Scheme  
Winner – Water, Wastewater, Sewerage and Drought Management – Projects Up To \$5 Million



## President's Report August 2011

Dear Member,

The end of the financial year is always a time for review and reflection and there certainly has been no shortage of initiatives to fulfil that task. Across both IPWEAQ and the Queensland Water Directorate it has been an exciting and challenging year, with positive results to show. A full account will be contained in the Annual Report produced for the AGM in October, however some of the highlights include:

- An increase in membership of both IPWEAQ and QWD
- For IPWEAQ:
  - o Skills Development
    - An increase in the types of skills programs
    - An increase in the numbers attending
  - o Products
    - Standard Drawings – the number of available drawings has increased

and subscriptions continue to grow

- ADAC – V4 has been released which enables better integration nationally; Associate and Core members have increased and interest has been shown in Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales
- Complete Streets – subscriptions continue to grow; the training has proven very worthwhile and successful
- Supervisors Handbook continues to be a great asset to Councils, along with the associated training
  - o Branch Conferences – held in all Branches with great success
  - o State Conference 2010 – I don't need to reiterate how good this was!
- For QWD:
  - o Representation of the industry at all levels has directly benefited all members by influencing State and Federal policies to maintain appropriate, practical and cost effective approaches for changes affecting Queensland WSPs.
  - o The Statewide Water Information Management (SWIM) reporting project has rationalised water data reporting

## In this edition

- President's Report
- CEO's Column
- Introducing our New Corporate Partner
- Interface Agreements
- Fleet Contract – Local Buy
- State Conference Is Coming Soon
- Engicom Skills Development
- Around the Branches
- **qldwater** Report
- Transport and Main Roads Update
- Notice Board

## President's Report continued...

requirements to major Commonwealth and State agencies.

- o Industry skills development program as well as broader attraction and retention strategies is continuing to grow and attract funding to the industry.
- o Streamlining Water Regulation
- o Water Reporting and Benchmarking - SWIM
- o Skills and Workforce Development
- o Future of the Regional Water Industry
- o Treatment Plant Tour and Water Connections Week
- o Regional Collaboration

And the pace doesn't let up into this new financial year.

The Ballot Papers for the Board election have been sent and it is now up to us as members to choose – we have three very worthy candidates and I encourage you to make your vote count.

And the next time we meet will be at the State Conference, in beautiful Maryborough and Hervey Bay – my home town.

I look forward to seeing you then,

**David Wiskar**  
President



Lots and lots happening at the moment, with not a moment to spare! And that's just in our office – I know you are all extremely busy, with no let-up in

sight. We must all make sure, though, that we stop occasionally and smell the roses/play with the children/spend quality time with your partner/have a beer, wine, rum n coke/go for a walk or run or play any form of sport. Really, this is what gets us through.

For us, it is pedal to the metal on all fronts.

The **State Conference** is very much front of mind with 9 weeks to go – and by the time you are reading this it is only 8 weeks!! Oops, haven't registered as yet?? Well, get it into Christine fast. Hervey Bay/Maryborough is a great location: add to that an excellent papers' and function program and you can't afford to miss it. Christine has it all in hand, thank heavens.

And, following on from the State Conference ... the AGM will be held at that time and you must be a **financial member** to make your vote count: this applies to the election papers that are with you for completion and for the AGM.

Very exciting news on the **ADAC** front - ADAC has come of age. With V4 now released the standard is much more accessible and has led to interest from other States and from software suppliers. Adam has been doing a great job on this project, and there will be more to talk about at the Conference and in the next Bulletin. In the meantime, have a look at the website for the latest information.

You will find a list of **Skills Development** programs available within this Bulletin – there appears to be an increased requirement for our programs. You can achieve your career development requirements from IPWEAQ – just ask us how.



We have been running **Complete Streets** training workshops all across the State, so if you missed out please contact Christine or Adam and they will organise an in-house program for you.

I have been spending time with our Board members working on our strategies and will be able to tell you more next time. It really is an exciting time!

During this time we have also had some sad news: Gil Holmes (Past President, LOGOV Manager) lost his wife Jo-Anne recently and I'm sure you will all join with me in sending him condolences and our warmest wishes.

Take care of yourselves and each other and I look forward to seeing you soon: at the CQ Branch Conference at Emerald, the State Conference ... maybe on a "river somewhere" or somewhere in the great outdoors!

Warm regards,

**Suzanna**  
CEO

# What's New

## Introducing IPWEAQ New Corporate Partners

SMARTER SAFETY SOLUTIONS



AUSTRALIAN CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

### CONTRIBUTING CORPORATE PARTNER – Australian Construction Products

Australian Construction Products (ACP) is one of Australasia's leading manufacturers and distributors of steel and civil roading barriers with combined interests on both sides of the Tasman.

We pride ourselves on bringing innovative product solutions to the market and being able to draw on vast knowledge and experience from within our team. With three manufacturing sites, multi distribution centres, with integrated logistics and Trans Tasman relationships, ACP is committed to delivering the right solution for your project.

ACP manufacture W-Beam and Thrie-Beam guardrail to Australian Standard AS/NZS 3845:1999 and also conform to the requirements of all State Road Authorities throughout Australia. W-Beam is the preferred steel flexible barrier, not only in Australia, but also throughout the world. The Thrie-Beam guardrail system offers superior performance where there is a higher concentration of heavy vehicles with a history of high impact frequency.

ACP exclusively offers the X-350 which is the world's first fully re-directive guardrail terminal end. The X-350 can be used in Median, Tangent or Flared (up to 1200mm) installations. With the length of need starting at post 1, instead of post 3 (as in other terminals) the X-350 provides a greater length of protective barrier reducing the cost of installation.

## IPWEAQ Excellence Awards 2010 Winner WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL & PARSONS BRINCKERHOFF Dalby Wastewater Recycling Scheme WINNER – Water, Wastewater, Sewerage and Drought Management – Projects Up To \$5 Million

The Dalby wastewater recycling scheme, delivered a 1.0ML/d recycled wastewater plant, producing Colass A+ quality water to supply a nearby biorefinery.

The project was an augmentation to the existing Dalby Sewerage Treatment Plant utilising existing infrastructure.

For more information on this winning project contact Graham Cook – graham.cook@wdrc.qld.gov.au

In addition our family of products includes specialised Energy Absorbing, and Re-directive Guardrail End Terminals, crash cushions and the Sentryline II Tensioned Wire Rope Barrier system.

With a complete innovative range of products ACP can provide timely solutions for your barrier needs.

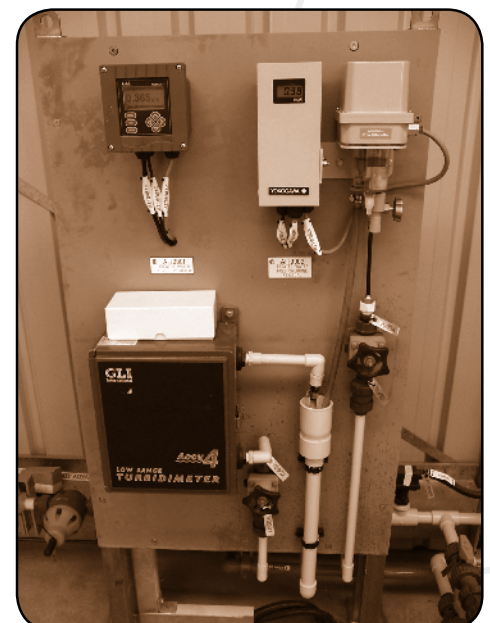
### CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL BUY – now a Major Corporate Partner

Local Buy is a wholly owned subsidiary company of the LGAQ Ltd. It has a vast amount of experience in working with local governments and their suppliers, is a dynamic organisation and responsive to the needs of local governments and entities.

Local Buy's portfolio of contracts encompasses around 40 tendered arrangements covering trucks, plant machinery, fuel, playground equipment, IT hardware & software and telecommunications. Additionally we also have a range of service type arrangements including pre-qualified consultancy services in the areas of town planning: architecture; recruitment; engineering; environmental, water and waste; asset and business management.

These arrangements are designed to provide procurement solutions which add value for buyers and suppliers through pre-qualifying relevant offers to supply goods and services

**Contact: Shane M Grimstone, Client Relationship Manager  
Local Buy Pty Ltd Procurement Services  
Ph: 07 3000 2275 Mb: 0429 479 423**



# KOMATSU

Principal Corporate Partner of  
**IPWEAQ**

# Interface Agreements

As road managers, councils in Queensland are required by the Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010 to enter into Interface Agreements with rail infrastructure managers (Queensland Rail and QR National) to effectively manage risks to safety that may arise because of the existence or use of any rail or road crossing on local government controlled roads.

A rail or road crossing is a rail crossing, that is a level crossing or any area where a footpath crosses railway at substantially the same level, or a bridge carrying a road over a railway or bridge carrying a railway over a road. This includes:

- Level crossings;
- Pedestrian level crossings;
- Road over rail bridges;
- Rail over road bridges; and
- Where a railway track on which rolling stock moves is along side road vehicles on the roads.

Interface Agreements focus on managing risks and provide for the following:

- Implementing and maintaining measures for managing risks;
- The evaluation, testing and, if necessary, revision of those measures;
- The roles and responsibilities of each party to the agreement;
- How each party will monitor compliance with their obligations under the agreement; and
- A process for keeping the agreement under review and how any review will be conducted and implemented.

The establishment of Interface Agreements is subject to a two-year transitional period from the implementation of the Act and this requirement will come into effect on the 1st September 2012.

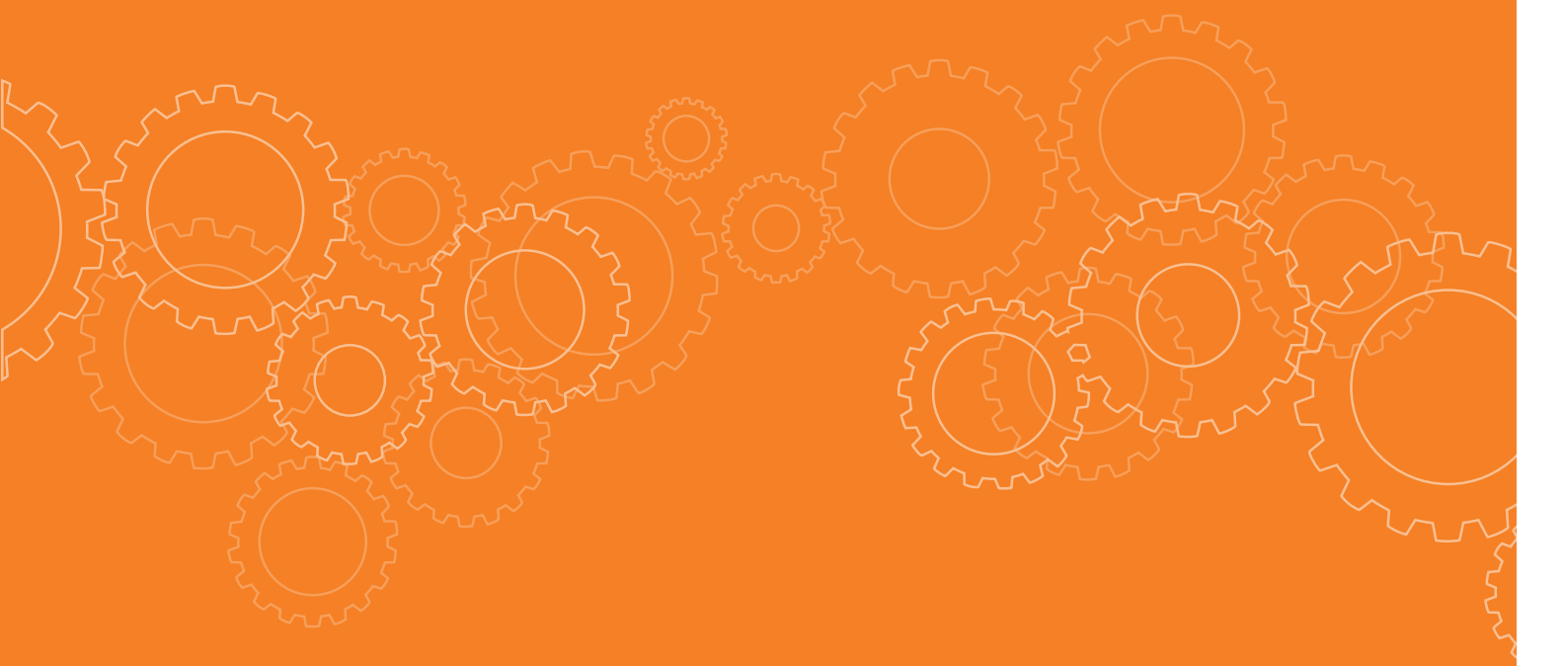
The scope of Interface Agreements extends beyond the Statement of Institutional Responsibilities as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), Queensland Rail and the Department of Transport and Main Roads which was renewed in March 2010. This is due to renewal of the MOU occurring prior to the legislation being enacted.

Queensland Rail has begun identifying rail or road crossings and assessing risks to safety and has commenced negotiating Interface Agreements with councils. Whilst

these Agreements are a legislative requirement, LGAQ would encourage councils to carefully consider the content of the Agreements and any corresponding impacts on council resources to carryout the identified actions.

For more information on Interface Agreements, contact Lance Smith, Program Manager Queensland Rail, on mobile 0437 082102 or email lance.smith@qr.com.au.

LGAQ's contact on this matter is Dr Rebecca Michael, Principal Policy Advisor, ph: 3000 2295 or email rebecca\_michael@lgaq.asn.au.





your  
procurement  
partner

## Local Buy's Next Generation of Fleet Contracts

Local Buy's next generation of Fleet Contracts (Earth-moving, Road and Bridge Making Equipment, Tractors and Mowers) will be available from October 01, 2011. Specialists from Local Governments assisted Local Buy's Fleet and Works Category Manager, Brett Piraner, with the development and evaluation of the tendered arrangements.

The Earth Moving and Material Handling Equipment (Contract: BUS 213-0511) is a Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers (RPQS) and requires local government authorities to obtain quotations. While the Road and Bridge Making Equipment (Contract: BUS 212-0511) is a Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA) with fixed pricing for a limited range of yellow plant.

A new Preferred Supplier Arrangement (PSA) for the supply of Tractors, Mowers, etc (Contract BUS 205-0111) was established under the National Procurement Network (NPN) and is available to Local Governments and Water authorities.

Successful vendors include Komatsu, Hastings Deering, Hitachi Construction Equipment, Kubota, JCB, Clarke, Hyundai Construction Equipment, CJD, Dynapac, New Holland, Paveline, Conplant, Ausroad and Tennant. A full list of suppliers is available on Local Buy's website.

## Flood affected councils receive funding for reconstruction efforts

Local Buy's contract, Services for Flood Affected Councils arrangement (Contract: BUS 206-0111) was established in response to a series of natural disasters throughout Queensland and the need by councils for immediate and long term reconstruction efforts. It allows council officers to engage Pre-Qualified Suppliers without the need to tender or seek multiple quotes - saving time and money.

Services offered under this contract include:

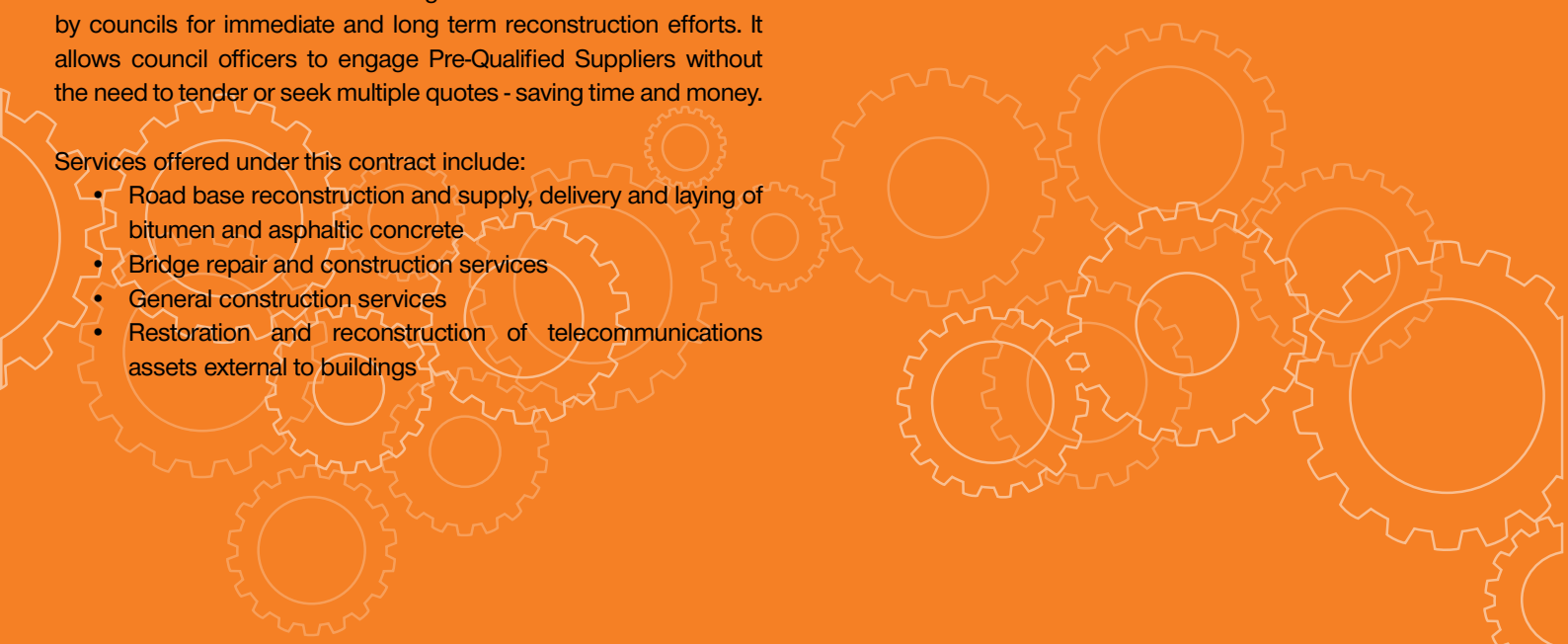
- Road base reconstruction and supply, delivery and laying of bitumen and asphaltic concrete
- Bridge repair and construction services
- General construction services
- Restoration and reconstruction of telecommunications assets external to buildings

## Pipes, Pumps, Associated Fittings and Concrete Products

A new tendered arrangement for Pipes, Pumps, Associated Fittings and Miscellaneous Concrete Products Contract (BUS 208-0111) has been established to enable all local government authorities to go directly to suppliers without the need to call for tenders. The Register of Pre-Qualified Suppliers (RPQS) includes concrete pipes, culverts, stormwater & sewer pipes and a range of pumps for treatment plants, reticulation pumping stations and multi-pump configurations for flood event pumping station systems.

## VendorPanel the future for Requests for Quotations (RFQ)

A new electronic Request for Quotation (RFQ) system called VendorPanel is designed to streamline the procurement process. The system will enable users to quickly send out requests which will be responded to in the timeframes set out by the users and also to assess them quickly and effectively with an audit trail for the decision-making process.



# IPWEAQ 2011 State Conference Engineering Communities Work~Rest~Play by the Bay!



This year's **State Conference Golf Day** will be held at the Hervey Bay Golf and Country Club on Tuesday 4th October. In previous years, this 4 player Ambrose event has seen around 10 teams battle it out on the winner's trophy with lots of prizes donated by our sponsors and exhibitors. You don't need to know how to play but must be prepared to have some fun. The cost of \$50 includes a sumptuous Golf Burger lunch, 18 holes and golf buggy so see you there.

The IPWEAQ 2011 State Conference will be held in **Maryborough** on **Tuesday 4th – Friday 7th October 2011** featuring the **IPWEAQ Road Safety Seminar** at Mantra Hervey Bay on Tuesday 4th October. For your 2011 State Conference accommodation, we are pleased to offer delegates a special discounted accommodation package rate at Mantra Hervey Bay. We have a host of speakers with very interesting topics, intriguing keynote speakers and two technical tours. There are some special tours for accompanying partners too so come join us!

**Excellence Awards Gala Dinner** – Wednesday 5th October @ Bayswater, Hervey Bay.

The **Excellence Awards** recognises and rewards practitioners within local government and public works who achieve innovation and best practice. IPWEAQ members from councils and organisations have nominated people and projects in the various categories and will be a part of this prestigious awards gala dinner event.

**Register today to attend this engineering event of the year!**

*This IPWEAQ State Conference is proudly sponsored by:*

**KOMATSU**

*tyco*  
**Water**

Hastings Deering

**CAT**



**Cardno**  
Shaping the Future

Contributing Corporate Partners of

**IPWEAQ**

**Atlantic**  
Civil Products

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**DIAL BEFORE**  
**YOU DIG**  
[www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au)



**RECHENBERG**  
SECURITY & LOCKSMITHS

SMARTER SAFETY SOLUTIONS

**ACP**  
AUSTRALIAN CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

# engicom Skills Development

## In-House Workshops

Training programs are available for regional delivery as per the IPWEAQ Training Calendar or in-house delivery tailored specifically to council's needs. For a one-off cost, a Council may host the training with savings both in time, cost of travel and accommodation for staff, and may allow Councils to have more staff participate than would otherwise be possible.

For more information, contact Christine Warne – [cwarne@ipweaq.asn.au](mailto:cwarne@ipweaq.asn.au) or phone 07 3000 2116.

## 2011 Programs

### Sustainable Planning Act & Development Assessment

- 14 September – Toowoomba

### Priority Infrastructure Plan

- 7 September – Townsville
- 2 November – Gold Coast

### Supervisors Workshop

In-house and regional delivery available – enquire now.

### Complete Streets Training Workshops

- 18 August - Goondiwindi

### Native Title & Cultural Heritage Compliance for Infrastructure Projects

- 26 August - Toowoomba
- 18 October - Barcaldine

### Powers & Responsibilities for Public Infrastructure

- 17 August - Townsville

### Powers & Responsibilities of the Local Government - Water

- 16 August - Townsville

### Disability Access Training

- 3 August – Townsville
- 23 August - Beaudesert

### Changes to the Local Government Act

- 15 September - Toowoomba

### Leadership in Practice (Supervisors)

- 23 – 24 August - Emerald

### Road Safety Audits

In-house and regional delivery available – enquire now.

### Road Safety Audit Refresher Course

In-house and regional delivery available – enquire now.

### Erosion & Sediment Control

In-house and regional delivery available – enquire now.

### Unsealed Roads

In-house and regional delivery available – enquire now.

### Effective Management of Bridges & Culverts

- 1 September – Gold Coast
- 2 September - Toowoomba

## 13th IPWEAQ North Queensland Supervisors Seminar

The Supervisors Seminar is being hosted by Townsville City Council from the 14th-16th September 2011.

Check out our website [www.ipwea.org.au/IPWEAQ/Queensland](http://www.ipwea.org.au/IPWEAQ/Queensland) or for more information or contact the Seminar Coordinators Melissa Rosemond or Anne Smart on 4727 8478.

# Around the Branches

## South East Queensland Branch

The most recent 4 O'clock Forum event was held on 3 August at KarelCAD's offices at Eight Mile Plains. The theme for the evening was the potential for increased use of digital data and the enhanced outcomes available by the convergence of technologies that we previously regarded as completely separate. A presentation on digital cities by Geoff Zeiss was an eye opener for those attending and a challenge for those of us in Government to get to grips with the potential that design through digital modelling really represents in public policy and information availability. Geoff demonstrated some applications of integration of available digital model data being produced by industry right now into a city wide information resource with enormous potential to completely alter how we do business through moving from 2D representation of design data into exchange of digital models for projects and developments.



My organisation is starting to gear up its capital project delivery for the current financial year. Speaking with others it seems that everybody is in a similar position, establishing their delivery arrangements for both internal works and flood damage restoration. The common theme seems to be that everybody is struggling with a larger than usual delivery expectation and limited resources to undertake the works. In our case we are negotiating some resource sharing with neighboring organisations. Once again we seem to be in for a challenging year.

Stewart Wall

Branch President: Stewart Wall  
Logan City Council  
Ph: 07 3412 5259  
E: StewartWall@logan.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Jason Deller  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
Ph: 07 5441 9369  
E: Jason.deller@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

## North Queensland Branch

This year's Annual North Queensland IPWEAQ Supervisors Seminar will be hosted by Townsville City Council, from the 14 to the 16 September 2011 in Townsville. This year's theme is 'Constructing the Future, Challenging the Past'. Preparations for the seminar are well under way. There are some very interesting presentations with a split afternoon session which will concentrate on water and Roads. We are still looking for water presentations. The Supervisors Seminar provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your organisation as well helping develop the expertise of Supervisors throughout North Queensland.



Remember to get your registrations in and ensure your organisation benefits from sending your supervisors. While on the subject of conferences and seminars I hope to see you all at the annual IPWEAQ 2011 State Conference at Harvey Bay in October. I trust that our region will have many excellence award nominations showcasing the excellent work we all do up north.

Matt Fanning

Branch President: Matthew Fanning  
Consultant  
Ph: 0400934836  
Email: mattfanning2@gmail.com

Branch Secretary: Colin Gray  
Consultant  
Ph. 07 4776 4605  
Email: graybarc@optusnet.com.au

## CQ Branch Conference - Bundaberg - 1-3 September

### Central Queensland Branch



Recently I was able to attend a breakfast gathering with our Corporate Sponsors and friends of the IPWEAQ. The meeting was very well attended and it was good to catch up with the many sponsors who support our events across Queensland. Following the breakfast gathering, a meeting was held by the State Board at which many and varied topics were discussed. It is pleasing to see that membership numbers remain strong and are growing across all the branch areas.

Preparations are underway for the next CQ Branch conference to be held in Rockhampton on the 8th, 9th and 10th September 2011. The conference theme this year is "Tributes to Tributaries - Connections across CQ". I chose this theme not only to reflect the obvious flooding impacts encountered by most in our branch area but also to highlight the strong connections we have between public works engineering personnel across the area and the equally strong connections we have with our engineering consultants and product suppliers.

Planning is well progressed with a site tour, technical papers, social activities and golf on the agenda. The conference will also include the CQ Branch AGM so I would ask that CQ members give some serious thought to becoming involved in the Branch executive and other activities or issues they would like to pursue in our region. I look forward to seeing CQ Branch members there. Until next time,

Martin Crow

Branch President: Martin Crow  
Rockhampton Regional Council  
Ph: 07 4936 8602  
Email: martin.crow@rrc.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Murray Donald  
Wide Bay Water Corporation  
Ph. 0429 900 765  
Email: murrayd@widebaywater.qld.gov.au

### South West Queensland Branch



I recently visited Lockyer Regional Council, and was able to visit some of the sites recovering from the January flooding. This included a site visit to the Grantham land redevelopment project, which is progressing quickly and is expected to be well advanced by December. As the next branch conference is to be hosted by Lockyer and Somerset, we will all get the chance to see the amazing work these councils and communities are undertaking to recover from the devastating floods. The conference will be held in November, with final dates yet to be confirmed.

The board has been progressing a number of strategic items, namely Asset Management and Service Levels, Probity, Utility Coordination, and Climate Change. There is a lot of work occurring in these areas, and although it may take some time to see the outcomes, they are all issues that affect us as engineers and have been given priority by the board.

Don't forget to complete your registration form for the State Conference at Maryborough - its not too late!

Regards,  
Seren

Branch President: Seren McKenzie  
Scenic Rim Regional Council  
Ph: 07 5540 5176  
Email: seren.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

Branch Secretary: Craig Heck  
Scenic Rim Regional Council  
Ph: 07 5540 5420  
Email: Craig.H@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

## Confidential Industry Benchmarking Reports Now Available

SWIM comparative reports are now available on the SWIM website (<http://www.swim.qldwater.com.au/>) as confidential reports for service providers that submitted data to SWIM. Indicators for individual utilities are provided compared with medians from service providers in the same region, those with a similar soil type, similar size and all service providers together. For the first time this year, data for selected indicators are also presented as graphs for simple visualisation and internal reporting. These graphs show individual council data with comparisons to medians and 10th and 90th percentiles of other similar service providers. Passwords to access the confidential reports are available from nominated contacts in each utility. Further information can be obtained by contacting [swim@qldwater.com.au](mailto:swim@qldwater.com.au).

## Queensland Water Skills Partnership

Queensland water utilities have been invited to join the proposed "Queensland Water Skills Partnership." This new initiative has been established to address critical skills needs facing the urban water industry in Queensland to extend the work undertaken through the Water Skills Formation Strategy (SFS) which was supported by the Department of Education and Training. The proposal to water service providers seeks interest in financial support for the partnership (\$25 +GST per water/wastewater employee for the 2011/12 financial year), nominations for the group to govern the partnership and requests to lead or participate in specific reference groups and projects.

**qldwater**, is on behalf of the partnership, lodging an expression of interest to Skills Queensland under the Strategic Investment Fund seeking additional support for this work. One of the key criteria is the capacity to attract direct industry investment and **qldwater** is grateful for members' ongoing support. More than 10% of the industry (both local and State Government) signed up to the Partnership within the first fortnight of the proposal being released. For further information, to provide suggestions, or to opt-in, contact Dave Cameron at [dcameron@qldwater.com.au](mailto:dcameron@qldwater.com.au) or 07 3000 2257.

## qldwater Operator Of The Year awarded to South Burnett and Allconnex Staff

Brendon Schutz (Allconnex Gold Coast) and Cameron Ansell (South Burnett Regional Council) have been recognised for their outstanding achievements at the Water Industry Operator's Association (WIOA) Conference in Toowoomba in June. Brendon was awarded the **qldwater** 2011 Queensland Operator of the Year - Civil Award, and Cameron the **qldwater** 2011 Queensland Young Operator of the Year Award.

The awards acknowledge the recipients' individual contribution to the urban water industry and reward innovation, civil expertise and customer service. The young operator award also aims to encourage future opportunities for young operators within the industry.

Brendon Schutz's success is a tribute to his 10 years civil and customer service expertise during which he has effectively managed the Gold Coast's innovative Pressure Leakage Management Project. Brendon said he was delighted and honoured to receive this award. "I feel as though I'm continuously learning new things every day about the water industry, so to be recognised for my contributions so far, is a truly rewarding experience. I thank Allconnex for the opportunity and am looking forward to the further professional development opportunities that the award will provide".

As Treatment Technical Officer at South Burnett, Cameron Ansell has been instrumental in managing the successful upgrades of the Kumbia Reservoir, Gordonbrook Treatment Plant, Yallakool Tourist Park Sewage Treatment Plant and Murgon Water Treatment Plant projects. Cameron said he was very pleased to have been nominated and recognised through this award. "It is great to feel a part of the water industry and for my efforts to be recognised by my colleagues and peers. I am very grateful for the experience I have gained at the South Burnett Regional Council. Working within a smaller council allows for involvement across the entire spectrum of operations from treatment through to reticulation. The projects I have worked on have given me such a broad level of experience," he said.

Both award recipients received an all expenses paid trip to the Water Industry Operations Group New Zealand Conference to a value of \$2000, a perpetual commemorative plaque to be presented to their council and an individual trophy. Winning nominations were selected by a panel of water representatives from employer submissions demonstrating candidates' commitment to skills training and development, overall plant or system management and responsibility, Occupational Health and Safety, customer service, teamwork and ability to meet Standard Operating Procedures and Council/Authority and regulatory requirements. To find out more about eligibility please visit [www.qldwater.com.au](http://www.qldwater.com.au) under "Projects and Training." Nominations for 2012 awards can be forwarded to [enquiry@qldwater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@qldwater.com.au).

## 2011 Water Connections Tour

This year's Water Connections Tour was sponsored by Dial Before You Dig and was again a great success. Councils visited were Roma, Barcoo, Mornington Island, Diamantina, Mount Isa, Cloncurry and Normanton during May. This year representatives and experts participating in the tour included one of Australia's most experienced sewerage treatment plant and water treatment plant managers, Michael Lever, senior managers from the State Government Departments of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and Queensland Health, the Federal Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPC), the National Water Commission as well as **qldwater** Chair David Wiskar (from Wide Bay Water) and other **qldwater** staff.

Since the program commenced six years ago more than 50 visits have been made to regional and remote councils and some councils have participated more than once. In summary the tour consists of a half-day delegation meeting with council members, chief executive officers, water managers and technical water operators as well as a tour of sewerage, water treatment plant or other water infrastructure. It is encouraging to receive such positive feedback from past WSPs involved in the tour. Some member comments include:

- "The tour really supports regional and remote local government interests."
- "It was excellent to have representatives here to appreciate and discuss local

# Transport and Main Roads UPDATE



## TMR ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Hi and welcome to my latest update.

Once again the TMR Engineering Technology Forum has been a resounding success. With over 650 in attendance, the 2011 Forum was held at two separate locations over four days and addressed two separate themes.

'Transformation of the Western Corridor' was held at the Ipswich Civic Centre and covered a wide range of topics relating to constructing complicated motorways that pose unique technical challenges and complex traffic management. It was great to see Ipswich back on its feet after the floods and playing host to this part of the forum.

The Engineering Technology component of the forum 'Natural Disasters and the Impact on the Transport Network' addressed the impacts and responses by the department in re-establishing

our transport networks after some of the worst natural disasters seen in a generation.

Each year the forum provides departmental staff and industry with a first rate event that delivers endless opportunities for learning and networking. For those of you who didn't get to go, keep your calendar free for next year's to be held in the first week of August.

Recently, there have been some changes to the Standard Specifications Manual, with the addition of two new specifications:

- MRS35 Recycled Material – which now allows the use of recycled materials.
- MRS55 Use of Explosives – reinstated at the request of users.

Standard drawings have now been printed and are ready for release. For more information go to the Technical Standards and Publications section on the TMR website: [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au)

Until next time,  
**Ross Guppy**

## *qldwater* Report continued

issues and resources and to gain input into how we manage it in the future."

- "It is an excellent way to gain first hand information on changes to industry and legislation."
- "*qldwater* understand that one rule is not suitable for all councils and by visiting us to discuss our individual needs is very beneficial."

We thank the members who participated this year, our sponsor, Dial Before You Dig and our commonwealth and state representatives who attended. Councils who may be interested in participating in the 2012 tour can contact Heather at [hgold@qldwater.com.au](mailto:hgold@qldwater.com.au).

### Barcoo Shire Council wins 'Best of the West Water Taste Test'

Jundah (in Barcoo Shire Council) with a population just over 100, has won this year's title of having the best tasting drinking water in the Best of the West Water Taste Test competition. During the 2011 Water Connections Tour, *qldwater* took samples from Maranoa, Diamantina, Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Mornington and Carpentaria potable water supplies. Water

samples were judged by a panel of industry experts based on clarity, flavour, aroma and aftertaste. Jundah was announced as the winner, with the judges saying the water was clear and very palatable, with a fresh, slightly mineral taste.

Barcoo Mayor Bruce Scott said that the awards was quite an achievement, with the town's water coming from the Thomson River and two bores. "You never know how your services stack up until it's tested against other things like water suppliers, and to have that bestowed upon us is quite an achievement," he said. "The proof is usually in a cup of tea or coffee ... and it makes a good cup of tea or coffee and it is very refreshing."

Mr David Wiskar, *qldwater* Chair, said the competition, initiated by *qldwater* on behalf of the industry, aimed to raise awareness and recognise the efforts of local water service providers in delivering quality water services to their communities. "This is the first year that we have held the competition but already we are encouraged by the interest from the local service providers across the state who wish to raise the profile of their role. Safety and the quality of the water that flows into

our homes is the most important issue that water utilities address. Recognition through these awards will help to highlight their commitment to deliver quality water."

Mr Wiskar said the 2011 competition was open to a small group of regional western Queensland communities who participated in this year's tour but next year it would be expanded to other areas across the state. "Most councils believe their water is better than the bottled water that many people drink today and they are willing to put it to the test," he said. Enquiries and entries for the 2012 competition can register their interest by emailing [enquiry@qldwater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@qldwater.com.au).



## The Notice Board



### THE INCREDIBLE MAGDEBURG WATER BRIDGE IN GERMANY

The Magdeburg Water Bridge is a navigable aqueduct in Germany that connects the Elbe-Havel Canal to the Mittelland Canal, and allows ships to cross over the Elbe River.

At 918 meters, it is the longest navigable aqueduct in the world. The Elbe-Havel and Mittelland canals had previously met near Magdeburg but on opposite sides of the Elbe. Ships moving between the two had to make a 12-kilometer detour, descending from the Mittelland Canal through the Rothensee boat lift into the Elbe, then sailing downstream on the river, before entering the Elbe-Havel Canal through Niegripp lock. Low water levels in the Elbe often prevented fully laden canal barges from making this crossing, requiring time-consuming off-loading of cargo.

Construction of the water link was started as early as in the 1930s but due to the World War 2 and subsequent division of Germany the work remained suspended till 1997. The aqueduct was finally completed and opened to the public in 2003.

### Study Tour Recipients

Overseas Study Tour – this was awarded to Michael Kahler, AECOM.

National Conference Study Tour – this was awarded to Andrew Johnson, Somerset Regional Council.

### All in the name of charity

Ian Woodyard (IPWEAQ Past President and Foundation Trustee) joined the Leighton's team for the Oxfam 100 km walk. They made it in one piece in 28 hours neat – "bloody tough", says Woodie. The team raised \$8270 in total to date. This photo is at 8 pm (they had been going 10 hours at this point and were fed and watered before leaving Lake Manchester) – wouldn't you hate to be the shortest guy in this team with Woodie and his long legs!! Congratulations to Woodie and the team.



### Congratulations

Patrick Murphy (IPWEAQ Immediate Past President) – Patrick has joined the Foundation Trustees following the resignation of Gil Holmes.



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