

# Annual Review 2012/2013



PROVIDING  
REGIONAL  
WATER  
AUTHORITIES  
WITH  
INDEPENDENT,  
EXPERT  
ADVICE,  
TECHNICAL  
SUPPORT,  
SHARED  
INDUSTRY  
KNOWLEDGE,  
IMPROVED  
EFFICIENCIES  
AND LONG  
TERM  
PLANNING





Photos supplied courtesy of Water Directorate member councils.

## Chair Review

In the absence a response from the State Government regarding local water utility reform the Water Directorate has remained focussed on promoting the good work achieved by local water utilities, particularly since the introduction of the best practice framework by the NSW Office of Water in 2007.

In recent months we made submissions to four separate government inquiries that strongly promoted the benefit of water and/or sewerage services being delivered by local water utilities. The Water Directorate rejects the notion that a 'one-size-fits-all' model is applicable and instead we support a flexible approach to utilising a range of models, including alliances.

When preparing these submissions it was not easy to find a 'common voice' that could adequately represent

a large number of members from different regions. However, our strong membership base and good communication channels meant that we could consult widely with members on the content of our submissions prior to the closing dates.

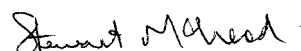
A copy of our submissions to the State Infrastructure Strategy 2012-32, the Local Government Acts Taskforce, the Joint Review of the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006* and the Independent Local Government Review Panel are available on our website.

We also advocated strongly during the year for representation on the Dam Safety Committee and the proposed Local Government Development Board. This is an area in which the Water Directorate should do more work on behalf of members and we will need to examine our

representation opportunities more closely in the near future.

Once again I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their involvement in all our activities. I particularly want to thank retiring members Carmel Krogh and Simon Thorn who have been stalwart members of the Executive Committee over a number of years. Their professionalism and passion for the local government water industry will be missed.

Most importantly I want to thank our member councils for your ongoing support. Your participation and technical expertise is a key reason for our success as a membership organisation.



Stewart McLeod

## Executive Officer Review

The past year has been busy with the publication of four technical documents: an *Environmental Incident Report* to use when notifying authorities of a pollution incident, an *Overview of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines* that identifies key changes made by the NHMRC, a revised version of the *WTP Guidelines for Residuals and Backwash Water Reclamation* and a new document to assist local water utilities with the protection of existing and future sewer assets, *Building in the Vicinity of Sewer Mains Guidelines*.

We also hosted three workshops to discuss issues with member councils: two one day Dam Safety Risk Management workshops were held with a view to forming a Dam Safety subcommittee as well as developing appropriate guidelines and one half day workshop was held to discuss an industry-wide response to the Local Government Acts Taskforce.

In addition, we hosted two forums: the first was held at the LGSA Water Management Conference in Wagga Wagga and the second forum was held at the IPWEA (NSW Division) Annual Conference in Terrigal. The panelists, presenters and attendees made both these forums very successful events and we thank them for their participation.

The excellence awards we sponsor provide our members with an opportunity to showcase their local water utility or an outstanding individual. The *IPWEA Excellence Award for Innovation in Water and Wastewater*, the *WIOA Operator of the Year Award* and the joint *AWA/Water Directorate Conference Attendance Award* have proved very popular in recent years. Unfortunately the LGSA Environmental Award failed to attract nominations in the past two years and hence we will not continue our sponsorship in 2013.

We are often invited to provide representation on industry committees, participate in university studies or undertake joint projects with other water industry organisations.

The voluntary nature of our Executive Committee means that some of our representatives attend additional meetings such as the Aboriginal Water and Sewage Services Steering Committee or the Water Industry Advisory Committee. I particularly want to thank these Executive Committee members for their ongoing commitment to representing the local government water industry.



Gary Mitchell



## High Priorities Actions

A key objective of the Water Directorate is to provide technical advice and support to our member councils. We achieved this objective in 2012/13 by:

- ▶ producing technical publications
- ▶ hosting an online discussion forum
- ▶ convening workshops on relevant industry topics
- ▶ making submissions to various government inquiries and
- ▶ sponsoring four industry best practice awards.

At the annual planning meeting our list of priority actions is reviewed and updated. Members are always encouraged to send suggestions for new projects and are formally invited to attend the Annual General Meeting in November.

During the annual planning meeting our Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated. A copy of our current Strategic Plan is available on our website. Project suggestions or enquiries should be sent to Gary Mitchell on [gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:gmitchell@waterdirectorate.asn.au)

## High Priority Activities 2012/13

### JUL 2012

- ▶ Hosted the Water Managers' Forum at the LGSA Water Management Conference in Wagga Wagga

### AUG 2012

- ▶ Published an **Environment Incident Report** that provides LWUs with a generic template to use when notifying a pollution incident
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the Water Services Association of Australia members meeting in Canberra

### SEP 2012

- ▶ Hosted a Dam Safety Risk Management Workshop in Sydney
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the NSW Green Globe Awards in Sydney

### OCT 2012

### NOV 2012

- ▶ Published an updated version of the **Overview of the 2011 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**
- ▶ Hosted a Dam Safety Risk Management Workshop in Ballina
- ▶ Made a submission to the State Infrastructure Strategy 2012-32
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the AWA Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) Forum in Canberra

### DEC 2012

- ▶ Hosted a Local Government Reviews Workshop in Sydney
- ▶ Sponsored the *LGSA Environment Awards – Best Practice Environmental Management of Water and Sewerage Supply* that was won by Dubbo City Council
- ▶ Made a submission to the State Government Review of the *Local Government Act 1993*

### JAN 2013

### FEB 2013

- ▶ Published a revised version of the **WTP Guidelines for Residuals and Backwash Water Reclamation**.
- ▶ Made a submission to the Joint Review of the *Water Industry Competition Act 2006*
- ▶ Chair and Executive Officer attended a combined Queensland Water Directorate, Vic Water and Water Directorate meeting in Brisbane
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the Sydney Catchment Authority Science Symposium in Sydney

### MAR 2013

- ▶ Executive Officer attended the National Water Commission's World Water Day and Performance Report Launch in Canberra
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the AWA NSW President's Dinner

### APR 2013

- ▶ Sponsored the *WIOA Operator of the Year Award* won by Neville Woodward of Coffs Harbour City Council

### MAY 2013

- ▶ Facilitated the Water Forum at the IPWEA (NSW Division) Conference in Terrigal
- ▶ Jointly sponsored the *Conference Attendance Award* with AWA that was won by Tracey Hamer of MidCoast Water
- ▶ Sponsored the *IPWEA Excellence Award for Water and Wastewater* that was won by Wyong Shire Council

### JUN 2013

- ▶ Published the **Building in the Vicinity of Sewer Mains Guidelines**
- ▶ Hosted a Business Model Subcommittee workshop in Sydney
- ▶ Made a submission to Independent Local Government Review Panel
- ▶ Executive Officer attended the WIOA Qld Operators Conference on the Gold Coast

## Executive Committee 2012/13

### Executive Committee Attendance Record – Elected Representatives

Name	Council	Region	Attendance
Wayne Beatty	Orange City Council	Central West	5/7
Anthony Burnham*	Tweed Shire Council	North Coast	0/5
David Byrne	Cooma-Monaro Shire Council	South East	6/7
Brett Corven**	Eurobodalla Shire Council	South East	2/2
Russell Deans	Bathurst City Council	Central West	7/7
Greg Finlayson	Riverina Water	South West	7/7
Alan Fletcher**	Upper Hunter Shire Council	Hunter	2/2
Wayne Franklin	Rous County Council	North Coast	6/7
Brendan Guiney**	MidCoast Water	Mid North Coast	2/2
Doug Hill	Tamworth Regional Council	New England	6/7
Tony Holmes**	Shoalhaven City Council	Illawarra	1/2
Heinz Kausche	Wagga Wagga City Council	South West	5/7
Carmel Krogh*	Shoalhaven City Council	Illawarra	4/5
Greg McDonald	Wyong Shire Council	Hunter	4/7
Angus McLean*	Eurobodalla Shire Council	South East	4/5
Stewart McLeod	Dubbo City Council	Orana	7/7
Eric Poga	Wellington Shire Council	Orana	7/7
Terry Seymour**	Richmond Valley Council	North Coast	1/2
Jeff Sharp	Port Macquarie Hastings Council	Mid North Coast	4/7
David Steller	Armidale Dumaresq Council	New England	3/7
Simon Thorn*	Coffs Harbour City Council	Mid North Coast	4/5
David Tull	Griffith City Council	South West	6/7

\*Resigned \*\*Newly elected

At the end of 2012 four of our Executive Committee members resigned: Simon Thorn, Carmel Krogh, Angus McLean and Anthony Burnham. One newly elected representative, Terry Seymour, also resigned in May 2013. We thank all these retiring members for volunteering their time and participation on various subcommittees.

Particular thanks are extended to Simon Thorn for his valuable contribution over the past fourteen years and also to Carmel Krogh for her dedication as both a committee member and, most recently, as Deputy Chair. Simon retired from Coffs Harbour City Council in March after 23 years and Carmel was appointed in late 2012 as a new board member on the Sydney Catchment Authority.

Our biennial elections for the Executive Committee were held in December and five new representatives were elected: Brett Corven, Alan

Fletcher, Brendan Guiney, Tony Holmes and Terry Seymour. It is pleasing to have so many new, and in the case of Tony Holmes returning, faces to replace our outgoing members.

The Executive Committee comprises 18 elected members representing 9 local government non-metropolitan regions and two appointed Local Government NSW representatives. All elected members are currently employed as senior water and/or sewerage managers or technical directors in NSW local government.

Two appointed representatives from Local Government NSW generally attended the meetings. However, due to the restructure of the LGSA in March to form Local Government NSW one of the two appointed positions remained vacant at the end of the year. A second representative is expected to be appointed following the Local Government NSW Conference in October.

## Financials

For a third year, overall income increased by 8%. The rise in income was primarily due to a small increase of 1.6% in annual membership fees and the co-funding of one of our documents with the Queensland Water Directorate. All other income remained steady.

However, during 2012/13 overall expenditure fell by 10% as a result of decreases in several categories. The reduced expenditure in the Consultants and technical support category was because the four

published technical documents this year were relatively inexpensive: two were revisions of previous publications; one was co-funded and one was produced in-house by the Sewer Subcommittee with no consulting costs for the technical content. Also, the IPWEA secretariat support category was less expensive than previous years because of a change in the accounting system and recalculated office arrangements.

At the end of this financial year our accumulated funds ratio is a very

robust 70.8%, providing us with a very strong financial base for expansion.

A Business Model Subcommittee workshop was held in June and examined whether the Water Directorate should expand its current role and looked at ways to assist members with implementation of our technical documents in a more hands-on fashion. At the annual planning meeting in November the Executive Committee will decide on the recommendations from that workshop.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13 and 2011/12

	2013	2012
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	481,122	453,298
Sales – manuals and training	6,441	6,105
Interest and investment	25,448	24,845
Co-funding	8,637	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>521,648</b>	<b>484,248</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff salaries and superannuation	202,883	197,675
Consultants and technical support	39,739	71,244
IPWEA secretariat support	52,500	66,000
Advertising and sponsorship	19,237	25,598
Printing, postage and stationery	21,013	24,946
Conferences, travel and accommodation	3,425	5,966
Industry subscriptions and membership	13,384	11,146
Executive committee expenses	8,878	8,055
Insurance	7,245	6,787
Computer and training expenses	14,962	3,048
Accounting and audit expenses	6,900	7,100
Miscellaneous expenses	3,263	6,025
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>393,429</b>	<b>433,590</b>
<b>SURPLUS FUNDS (funds used)</b>	<b>128,219</b>	<b>50,658</b>
<b>FUNDS HELD</b>		
Balance beginning of period	241,290	190,632
Surplus (funds used)	128,219	50,658
<b>Balance end of year</b>	<b>369,509</b>	<b>241,290</b>

## Financials

Office accommodation and IT technical support were once again provided by the IPWEA (NSW Division). This long standing secretariat arrangement has provided us with great stability as a small incorporated association.

In a new financial arrangement this year the accounting services were provided by the IPWEA National Office.

We are pleased that our accounts for 2012/13 have been approved by the

auditors. Recently LWK Pty Ltd was reappointed as our auditors for an additional three year period until the end of 2014/15.

Member councils are welcome to request a copy of the financial statements and/or the auditor's report for 2012/13. The audited financial statements will be presented at the AGM on 7 November 2013 and published on our website following that meeting.

### FORECAST BUDGET for 2013/14

	\$	%
<b>Income</b>		
Membership fees	495,000	92.0
Sales income	6,000	1.1
Interest and investment	27,000	5.0
Other income	10,000	1.9
<b>Total income</b>	<b>538,000</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff salaries and superannuation	210,000	48.1
Consultants and technical support	65,000	14.9
IPWEA secretariat support	55,000	12.7
Advertising and sponsorship	25,000	5.7
Printing, postage and stationery	25,000	5.7
Conferences, travel and accommodation	6,000	1.4
Industry subscriptions and membership	14,000	3.2
Executive committee expenses	9,000	2.1
Insurance	8,000	1.8
Computer expenses	6,000	1.4
Accounting and audit expenses	7,500	1.7
Miscellaneous expenses	5,500	1.3
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>436,000</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SURPLUS FUNDS (funds used)</b>		
<b>FUNDS HELD</b>		
Balance beginning of period	369,509	
Surplus	102,000	
<b>Balance end of year</b>	<b>471,509</b>	

## Submissions

NOV 2012

### Submission to the State Infrastructure Strategy 2012-2032

- ▶ Reiterated the findings of the 2008 Armstrong/Gellatly Report that argued for a flexible approach to aggregation of LWUs in the water industry.
- ▶ Disputed the information contained in the report and argued it was based on the outdated and discredited Infrastructure Australia report.
- ▶ Supported local autonomy and opposed any concept of forced amalgamations.
- ▶ Argued that the performance of LWUs has been comparable and better than other water authorities as evidenced in the NSW Office of Water's official *Performance Monitoring and Benchmarking Reports*.

DEC 2012

### Submission to the Local Government Acts Taskforce

- ▶ Proposed a reduction in red tape and regulatory duplication through the removal of NSW Office of Water's role in S60-S63 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- ▶ Supported the reform of the *Local Government Act 1993* to address regulatory gaps and inconsistencies between LWUs and water utilities regulated through other instruments.
- ▶ Welcomed the opportunity for further discussion on the opportunities to best deliver water and sewerage services in regional NSW.
- ▶ Extended an invitation to discuss our reform suggestions in more detail.

JUN 2013

### Submission to Independent Local Government Review Panel

- ▶ Agreed that local government should retain its current responsibilities for water supply and sewerage.
- ▶ Rejected the proposed "one size fits all" approach of Multi-Purpose County Councils based on regional centres.
- ▶ Supported the establishment of alliances with the assistance of a suitably developed "Deed of Agreement" under the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- ▶ Requested representation on the proposed Local Government Development Board.
- ▶ Welcomed the opportunity to discuss the strengthening of the water and sewer services through the local government reform process.

FEB 2013

### Submission to Joint Review of the WIC Act 2006 and Local Government Act 1993

- ▶ Supported the removal of regulatory duplication and inconsistencies across the recycling sector.
- ▶ Supported the establishment of a flexible regulatory framework with both deemed to comply and outcome based provisions.
- ▶ Supported the retention of power to order connection to the water supply or sewerage network.
- ▶ Argued for the introduction of a guarantee from private developers that LWUs will not have to be the supplier of last resort.
- ▶ Welcomed the opportunity to discuss opportunities to regulate recycling in NSW.



## Members by Region

### Central West Region

Bathurst Regional Council  
 Blayney Shire Council  
 Cabonne Council  
 Central Tablelands Water  
 Cowra Shire Council  
 Forbes Shire Council  
 Lachlan Shire Council  
 Lithgow City Council  
 Oberon Council  
 Orange City Council  
 Parkes Shire Council  
 Weddin Shire Council  
 Young Shire Council

### Hunter Region

Muswellbrook Shire Council  
 Singleton Shire Council  
 Upper Hunter Shire Council  
 Wyong Shire Council

### Illawarra Region

Shoalhaven City Council  
 Wingecarribee Shire Council

### Mid North Coast Region

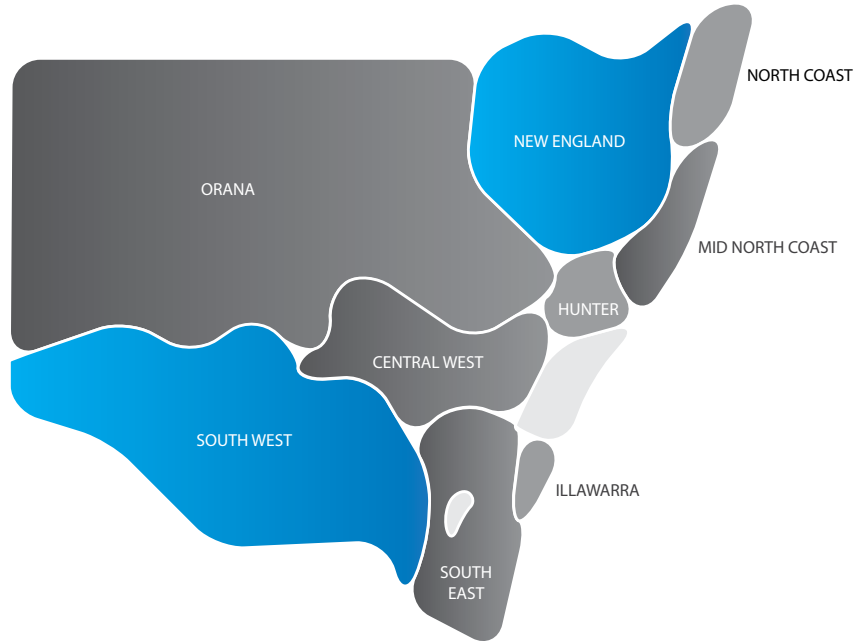
Bellingen Shire Council  
 Coffs Harbour City Council  
 Kempsey Shire Council  
 MidCoast Water  
 Nambucca Shire Council  
 Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

### New England Region

Armidale Dumaresq Council  
 Glen Innes Severn Council  
 Gunnedah Shire Council  
 Guyra Shire Council  
 Gwydir Shire Council  
 Inverell Shire Council  
 Liverpool Plains Shire Council  
 Moree Plains Shire Council  
 Narrabri Shire Council  
 Tamworth Regional Council  
 Tenterfield Shire Council  
 Uralla Shire Council  
 Walcha Council

### North Coast Region

Ballina Shire Council  
 Byron Shire Council  
 Clarence Valley Council



Kyogle Council  
 Lismore City Council  
 Richmond Valley Council  
 Rous Water Council  
 Tweed Shire Council

### Orana Region

Bogan Shire Council  
 Bourke Shire Council  
 Brewarrina Shire Council  
 Central Darling Council  
 Cobar Shire Council  
 Coonamble Shire Council  
 Dubbo City Council  
 Gilgandra Shire Council  
 Mid Western Regional Council  
 Narromine Shire Council  
 Walgett Shire Council  
 Warren Shire Council  
 Warrumbungle Shire Council  
 Wellington Council

### South East Region

Bega Valley Shire Council  
 Bombala Shire Council  
 Boorowa Council  
 Cooma-Monaro Shire Council  
 Eurobodalla Shire Council  
 Goulburn Mulwaree Council  
 Harden Shire Council  
 Palerang Council

Queanbeyan City Council  
 Snowy River Shire Council  
 Upper Lachlan Council  
 Yass Valley Council

### South West Region

Albury City Council  
 Balranald Shire Council  
 Berrigan Shire Council  
 Bland Shire Council  
 Carrathool Shire Council  
 Cootamundra Shire Council  
 Corowa Shire Council  
 Deniliquin Council  
 Goldenfields Water Council  
 Greater Hume Council  
 Griffith City Council  
 Gundagai Shire Council  
 Hay Shire Council  
 Jerilderie Shire Council  
 Junee Shire Council  
 Leeton Shire Council  
 Murray Shire Council  
 Murrumbidgee Shire Council  
 Narrandera Shire Council  
 Riverina Water County Council  
 Temora Shire Council  
 Tumbarumba Shire Council  
 Tumut Shire Council  
 Wagga Wagga City Council  
 Wakool Shire Council

## ONLINE BOOKSHOP

Water Directorate publications are now available online. Members and non-members can order or purchase online or hard copies of all our publications here.

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This year the Water Directorate's website was redesigned to better reflect the needs and interests of our members. The 'new look' website includes an online bookshop, easy-to-use discussion forum and a members' area.

The members' area provides additional information that is not available to public browsers. For example, all our technical documents are available to download free of charge from the online library. This means members can find the latest version of all our publications whether they are in the office or out on site.

The members' area also provides a space to share relevant documents and policies. Members are able to download these documents and policies and reference them where applicable. Documents that are ideal to share include:

- ▶ Strategic Plans
- ▶ Risk Management Plans and
- ▶ Specifications.

The Discussion Forum is one of our most popular membership services and it has been recently redesigned to make asking questions easier and faster. The most popular topics of topics for discussion over the past year have included:

- ▶ How councils handle claims for repairs to private sewer blockages caused by tree roots
- ▶ What procedures are recommended to rectify a leaking reservoir and
- ▶ Which analysers are used to monitor manganese levels in raw and potable water.

The online bookshop sells all our technical publications in either hard copy or electronic format. Those who choose the electronic format receive by email a hyperlink to a pdf copy of the document. Purchases can be made online by using Paypal or by downloading the order form from the website.

Over the past 14 years we have sold more than 1,100 publications and our three most popular publications to date have been:

- ▶ *Operations and Maintenance Manual for Sewer Reticulation*
- ▶ *Operations and Maintenance Manual for Submersible Sewage Pump Stations* and
- ▶ *Blue-Green Algae Action Flow Chart*.

The 'new look' website is more dynamic and we hope it will encourage our members to increasingly network with their colleagues around regional NSW. Feedback on the website is welcome at [info@waterdirectorate.asn.au](mailto:info@waterdirectorate.asn.au)



Latest News



Members Area



Discussion Forum



Bookshop







# WATER DIRECTORATE

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