



# Ozwater 14 – Benefits Report

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## Conference Attendance Award 2014

The Ozwater 14 Conference held at the Brisbane Exhibition and Conference Centre proved to be an amazing experience. Held at a great facility in the heart of South Bank, Brisbane set the stage for what was a fantastic opportunity to see and hear from the leading professionals and companies in the water industry. I brought back with me many ideas and opportunities for Liverpool Plains Shire Council (LPSC) and a wealth of new knowledge to aid my professional career.

The highlight of the event was the Trade Exhibition, featuring over 200 displays of industry leading products and services. At these exhibits I was able to gather information and learn about products and services suitable to improve operations and efficiency at Liverpool Plains Council. The possibilities were large but the products were in all sizes including monitoring instrumentation and small system components and valve maintenance trailers as well service providers. The potential benefits of my research ranges from improved system reliability, monitoring capability, regulatory conformance and reduced long term maintenance costs.

I attended many of the asset management presentations with topics focusing on asset condition assessments, incorporating risk based maintenance and capital programming and decision making tools for programming asset renewals. I found in these presentations varied methods and results to the same challenges I face every day at LPSC. From these presentations, I hope to improve Council's asset management practices and introduce new ideas.

The keynote presentations were a great insight into some of the big picture issues going on in the water industry, both domestically and internationally. It is too easy to just focus on the immediate issues facing daily operations and forget to look at the wider issues and their impacts on LPSC's water services. Some of the keynotes also told motivating stories on how they came to be here they are today.

Other presentations that I found beneficial included operational improvements at water treatment plants, implementation of drinking water management systems, determining acceptable taste in drinking water, the changed water consumption habits following drought and balancing recreational use in water supply dams.

My trip to Ozwater'14 was a great experience and I would like to thank the Water Directorate for the opportunity. I have gained a lot personally out of the conference and I have brought back new ideas for Liverpool Plains Shire Council. The Water Directorate should be congratulated for recognising the value in sending young water professionals to Ozwater.