Qldwater at the AAWA QWater’18 Conference

Ryan Cosgrove delivered an invited signature presentation at the Annual Australian Water Association QWater conference on the Gold Coast in November. The presentation included an update on the infrastructure cliff research being undertaken as part of the Queensland Water Regional Alliances Program (QWRAP) which is funded by DNRME and overseen by LGAQ.

Ryan described the likelihood of Queensland’s ageing water and sewerage pipes reaching the end of their serviceable lives in large amounts in the next two decades and what the necessary investment for renewals might cost. The presentation painted a bleak picture for water and sewerage infrastructure by the 2040s unless there is sweeping change in the way that we monitor and prioritise investment in our hidden assets in coming years.

The exact impacts of any infrastructure cliff in different parts of the state is still a matter for debate but there was broad agreement that the issue required serious attention. Ryan and Rob Fearon have been invited to submit further updates on the research at upcoming industry events. The final report on the costs of the infrastructure cliff will be released as an industry discussion paper in January 2019.

Our congratulations to Ryan on an excellent presentation very well received by those in attendance.

Another Innovation Award for QWRAP

QWRAP, the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program won the ‘Program Innovation – over 250,000 users’ award at the 2018 AWA gala awards ceremony in September. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) nominated the project for the award and in accepting, David Wiskar, Executive Director Policy acknowledged the efforts of LGAQ, qldwater and all contributing councils and staff in championing regional collaboration for the sector.

QWRAP then went on to win the Innovation & Sustainability in Water for Projects over $5 million award at the 2018 IPWEAQ excellence awards on the Gold Coast in October.

QWRAP commenced in 2011 with a further grant now awarded by DNRME until 2022. The grant provides financial support for the five most mature regions which has created some uncertainty about efforts in North and Central Queensland and growing interest in North-West Queensland however qldwater will continue to support activities in these locations and advocate for inclusion in the broader program.

The ongoing funding was supported by an independent review of QWRAP by Deloitte Access Economics which concluded, “QWRAP represents a potentially effective mechanism to develop regional economies of scale to realise the four dimensions of water security, reliability of supply, water quality and appropriate water pricing.” The review indicated that benefits from the program to date are likely to range from $1.9 million to $4.0 million but also noted significant data gaps suggesting a much higher return on investment.
Recognition for Dr Rob

Dr Rob Fearon, Director Innovation Partnerships at *qldwater* was awarded the AWA Regional Service Award at the AWA gala awards ceremony in September. The award recognised the critical role Rob has played with the multi award-winning Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program and his many years of service to the sector.

Rob commenced with us as the CEO for *qldwater* in 2006. His strategic foresight, technical understanding, and policy and government experience have been pivotal in the success and advancement of the Queensland Water Directorate.

KEY DATES FOR 2019

**Queensland Water Skills Partnership Forum**
7 March 2018 | Albion
Major themes for this year include workforce planning and capability development and a TRG meeting will follow on 8 March.

**Regional mini-conference**
28 March 2019 (TBC)
Biloela
*Hosted by Banana Shire Council*
The date may shift slightly during that week as we are trying to organise a safety-themed training opportunity prior to the event.

**Free water forum**
17 May 2019 | Charleville (AM)
Water Connections Week from 13 May sees us visiting Murweh, Paroo, Bulloo and Quilpie Shires and finishes in Charleville on 17 May.

**Regional mini-conference**
4-5 July 2019 | Townsville
*Hosted by Townsville City Council*
Includes site tour of the Haughton pipeline and dinner, with presentations, workshops etc on the 5th.

**Regional mini-conference**
25-26 July 2019 | Hervey Bay
*Hosted by Fraser Coast Regional Council*
25 July will include a QWRAP alliance meeting, tour of a range of sites in Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

**qldwater Annual Forum**
11-12 September
*Hosted by Logan City Council*
The program will include a tour showcasing some activities of the Logan Water Infrastructure Alliance.