

Water

Department of Planning and Environment



Local Water Utilities newsletter – August 2023



Extra technical training added to calendar

The department has updated its calendar of technical training courses for the rest of 2023.

Due to popular demand, we will run an additional Part 1 Chemical Dosing Systems for Water Supplies course (W75) in Mudgee from 25 to 29 September 2023.

The dates of the following water courses have changed from the previously published calendar:

- Water Treatment for Engineers course (WE6) – 16 - 18 October 2023, Bathurst

- Part 2 Water Treatment Operations course (WT41) – 16 - 20 October 2023, Bathurst
- Water Treatment Update Seminar (WS38) – 8 - 9 November 2023, Bathurst.

[See the updated training course calendar.](#)

To express interest in any of these courses, email water.lwuttraining@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Showcasing careers in the water industry



The department is working to promote careers in the water industry as part of its local water utilities skills and training action plan. This includes supporting career showcase days to raise school leavers' and job seekers' awareness about jobs available in the industry.

We recently supported a Careers on Country expo where Walgett Shire Council and local businesses promoted job opportunities to high school students from across the shire. We assisted staff from the council and Orana Water Utilities Alliance to display water testing equipment.

The department is hosting a Water Industry Careers Showcase day on Wednesday 6 September at Tamworth's Calala Water Treatment Plant, along with Tamworth, Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Councils. High school students interested in a career in the water industry will learn about the roles and work of the people who protect our environment and keep water flowing to our taps. They will also see a demonstration by Sydney Water's leak detection dogs. A key aim of the day is to encourage students to consider school-based apprenticeships as water operators, working with councils as part of their year 11 and 12 studies.

To find out how the department can help support a career day in your area, email water.lwutraining@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Public consultation on annual performance indicators



The department is hosting 2 online information sessions for local water utilities to find out more and discuss proposed performance indicators. Information sessions will be held on Thursday 7 September 2023 from 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm and Tuesday 12 September 2023 from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. Registration is essential.

The consultation will end on Friday 6 October 2023.

[Find out more and register to attend an online information session.](#)

Water Restrictions Harmonisation Project review



Drought resilience is a shared responsibility among the local water utilities sector, the department and the community.

The NSW Water Strategy includes an action to investigate options for a more consistent approach to water restrictions across NSW, including the development of common principles.

The department is developing a consultation paper to seek feedback from the local water utilities sector to identify issues and options for amendments to the strategic planning guidance material under the Regulatory and Assurance Framework.

Consultation will begin in the coming months and will include a series of online workshops held in October 2023 for local water utilities to discuss the consultation paper and provide feedback.

[Workshop registration will be open in early September via our website.](#)

Have your say: Great Artesian Basin water sharing plan amendments



The department is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the *Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Great Artesian Basin Groundwater Sources 2020* (the plan) that may affect water supply works (bore) approvals.

The proposed amendment seeks to correct and improve drafting and address unintended restrictions imposed on placement of bores for basic landholder rights and other groundwater users. These changes will make the plan consistent with other inland groundwater sharing plans across the state.

Interested parties are encouraged to have their say on the proposed changes to the water sharing plan during the public consultation period which will run until Sunday 1 October 2023.

Further details and dates can be found on the department's [website](#).

Water NSW operating licence review



The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART) is conducting an end-of-term review for the Water NSW Operating Licence 2022-2024 to investigate whether the existing licence is fulfilling its objectives.

IPART has published an issues paper for discussion and feedback. The review findings will be used to help recommend any appropriate changes to the operating licence.

[Find out more and have your say.](#)

Further information

Have your say

For more information or enquires please email the team at regional.town.water@dpie.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Government – Water Relations

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