

# Water

Department of Planning and Environment



## Local Water Utilities newsletter - April 2023



## Register for the Local water utilities roadshow

Local water utilities and stakeholders are invited to attend the 'Local water utilities roadshow' series about understanding priorities, delivering support and planning for the future.

The roadshow will be hosted by DPE Water and NSW Health in May and June 2023 and will include 5 regional face-to-face sessions, with presentations from NSW agencies and local water utilities, workshop activities, and an opportunity for all attendees to listen, collaborate and provide feedback.

Sessions will be held at the following locations and attendees must register their details via the link below:

- Dubbo - Monday 22 May 2023 - 10am to 4pm
- Tamworth – Tuesday 23 May 2023 – 10am to 4pm
- Coffs Harbour - Friday 26 May 2023 – 10am to 4pm
- Griffith – Tuesday 30 May 2023 – 10am to 4pm
- Queanbeyan – Thursday 1 June 2023 – 10am to 4pm

[Reserve my spot](#)

A welcome morning tea will be provided from 9:30am and lunch will be provided at each venue. We look forward to collaborating with our stakeholders across NSW.

## Phase 2 of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program



Building on the work over the past two years of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program, phase 2 has now commenced. We've created four teams to deliver phase 2 of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program over the next four years, focusing on:

- program management
- skills and training
- advanced operational support
- emergency, incident response and WHS.

We are currently establishing the program governance, recruiting roles and further defining the high-level scope to achieve our goals. We're making good progress on these steps and will have further updates in upcoming newsletters.

## Skills and training update

We've been working closely with Training Services NSW to advocate that water industry training needs are recognised and supported. This has included discussions around the availability of registered training organisations and fee-free training offerings.

The Water Directorate has published some guidance for water utilities who may be considering taking up fee-free training places for [Certificate II and III](#), as well as part [qualifications and skillsets](#), including how to register interest.

As we continue to work through the [Water operations skills and training action plan](#), we're seeking expressions of interest to form a working group that will inform a key piece of work - a water industry workforce development strategy. If you'd like to be involved reach out at [jade.baker@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jade.baker@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

## Advanced Operational Support program



The Advanced Operational Support program is managed by DPE Water. It will adopt a collaborative approach to supporting local water utilities with high-risk treatment plants that are unable to access funding to resolve their risks under the Safe and Secure Water Program.

The program will leverage existing departmental and industry expertise to provide on-the-ground support and funding assistance to optimise the performance of approximately 12 water treatment plants, so that more regional towns have reliable, resilient and safe water services. The program will also provide on-the-ground support for up to 2 sewerage treatment plants.

The program guidelines and expressions of interest to participate will be released in May 2023. Program outcomes will be used to inform future opportunities for the government to support and collaborate with the sector to reduce risks.

# Local Government Water Management Conference

The [LGNSW Water Management Conference 2023](#) is being held from Monday 26 June to Wednesday 28 June in Parkes. The conference is an opportunity to learn about the latest technical innovations and share best practice in water governance and management.

Key departmental personnel including Deputy Secretary Amanda Jones will represent DPE Water at the conference, and will cover topics on water security, supply to rural communities, dam infrastructure and safety, and the phase 2 delivery of the Town Water Risk Reduction Program.

## Further information

Visit the [Town Water Risk Reduction Program website](#) for more detailed information.

### Have your say

For more information or enquires please email the team at [regional.town.water@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regional.town.water@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

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