



2026 ANNUAL FORUM

19 & 20 August 2026
Eagle Farm, Brisbane

The Urgent Drop: The case for change



Preliminary Program + Invitation to Register



INVITATION

On behalf of the Queensland Water Directorate (*qldwater*), I invite you to attend our 2026 Annual Forum, taking place on 19 & 20 August 2026 at the IPWEA-QNT Training Rooms in Eagle Farm, Brisbane.

The Urgent Drop: The Case for Change

Queensland's urban water sector is facing a crisis that can no longer be deferred. Chronic underinvestment, ageing assets and infrastructure, a constrained workforce, and tightening regulation have created an infrastructure cliff that demands urgent, collective action. An estimated \$45.3 billion is required statewide to replace and renew networks approaching the end of their operational lifespans, and despite recent reviews into water service delivery across Australia and New Zealand, meaningful progress has stalled.

The 2026 Annual Forum is a call to action. Bringing together utility executives, engineers, policymakers, asset managers, and key stakeholders, the Forum will confront these challenges head on through case studies, forward-looking presentations, and strategic networking, with a focus on actionable solutions and the reform measures essential for sustainable water businesses into the future.

With local, state and federal elections on the horizon in 2028, the outcomes and consensus from this Forum will directly inform the sector's reform agenda and advocacy priorities.

This Forum presents a unique opportunity to engage with water industry professionals from across Queensland, following a sold-out 2025 event that attracted 125 delegates. It remains our signature event of the year, offering valuable networking and learning opportunities.

The first day of the Annual Forum will be hosted at the IPWEA-QNT Training Rooms in Eagle Farm, featuring the Opening Plenary and a full day of Forum Sessions. That evening, we will host the *qldwater* Awards Dinner at Waters Edge, Portside. The final day, Thursday 20 August, will include a Technical Tour showcasing key facilities in the southeast Queensland region.

I look forward to meeting you at the 2026 Annual Forum this August.



Dr Georgina Davis
CEO
qldwater

ABOUT THE FORUM

The **qldwater** Annual Forum is our signature event of the year specifically for water service providers, bringing together industry professionals, key stakeholders, and regulatory agencies for two days of networking, learning, and collaboration. This event is a great opportunity for our members to connect, share knowledge, and address challenges facing the water industry in Queensland.

The forum consists of site tours, an Awards Dinner, and a day of presentations, updates, and discussions on current issues that are of strategic importance to Queensland's water sector. It is a chance for attendees to deepen their understanding of key industry developments and exchange ideas with peers.



WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

qldwater Events attract a high calibre of participants from both regional and metropolitan Queensland as well as other Australian States and Territories.

The 2026 Annual Forum is expected to attract over 100 delegates from all corners of the industry including:

- ◆ Water utilities
- ◆ Technology & equipment manufacturers, suppliers and agents
- ◆ Local, State and Federal Government
- ◆ Academia and research organisations
- ◆ Consultants

HOST ORGANISATION

As the central advisory and advocacy body within Queensland's urban water industry, **qldwater** works with its members to provide safe, secure and sustainable urban water services to Queensland communities.



It achieves this goal through a variety of programs, most notably:

- The **Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program** - a collaborative program between the Queensland Government, **qldwater** and LGAQ aimed at helping Queensland councils work together at a regional scale to achieve efficiencies for their customers;
- The **Statewide Water Information Management (SWIM)** Program - advocacy and continuous improvement supported by a sophisticated regulatory and business reporting and benchmarking tool;
- The **Queensland Water Skills Partnership** - a collaboration among utilities to identify skills needs and solutions and encourage appropriate investment;
- Other **Industry Advocacy Services** - focused on sustainable investment and planning, and fit for purpose regulation;
- **Industry communication, innovation and marketing initiatives** – creating a distinct profile for urban water and sewerage and celebrating its achievements with often limited resources, to make the industry an attractive place to work and exploit its competitive advantages and collaborative culture.

qldwater members include all registered urban water service providers in Queensland, spanning local government service providers, statutory authorities, and state government-owned corporations, as well as Affiliate Members from the wider industry.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW*

WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2026

- Opening Plenary
- Forum Sessions
- Awards Dinner

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026

- Technical Tour

**Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this document as accurately as possible. The organisers reserve the right to change, without notice, any or all of these details.*

FORUM VENUE

IPWEA-QNT Training
Rooms
Level 1,
6 Eagleview Place
Eagle Farm

AWARDS DINNER VENUE

Waters Edge
Level 2, 39 Hercules St,
Hamilton

CONTACT

Should you have any questions regarding any of the information contained within this document, please contact either Dr Georgina Davis – CEO, **qldwater** or our event organisers Revolve Services:

Dr Georgina Davis
qldwater
M 0450 296 240
E gdavis@qldwater.com.au

Veronica Dullens
Revolve Services
M 0400 449 100
E veronica@revolveservices.com.au

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS + PARTNERS

qldwater would like to acknowledge the generous support of our 2026 Annual Forum sponsors and partners:

COFFEE CART

McCullough Robertson Lawyers



McCullough Robertson's specialist water lawyers navigate the legislative and political landscapes of project analysis and delivery. We pride ourselves on our expertise in water and environmental laws, landowner and stakeholder liaison, project funding, and construction contracting models, always guiding clients through complexity.

mccullough.com.au

TECHNICAL TOUR TRILITY



TRILITY

TRILITY is an Australian company committed to being a 'partner of choice' in the delivery of water, wastewater, and environmental services. Our services include asset finance, project design and construction, operations, maintenance, modular solutions, training as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO: 46056), data analytics, water quality consultancy, relief operations and critical spare parts.

trility.com.au

LANYARDS

Colliers



Colliers Engineering & Design are committed to excellence, value, and client service. Our in-house Water & Wastewater team delivers end-to-end solutions, spanning wastewater management, modelling, planning, design and contract administration, offering cost-effective, pragmatic outcomes for urban development, government, and utility clients through our specialist Water Infrastructure Engineering division.

colliers.com.au/en-au/services/engineering-and-design

MORNING TEA

GBA Consulting Engineers



GBA Consulting Engineers' success is based on teams of diverse, dedicated people whose expertise and experience ensure quality and flexibility. This allows us to provide optimum client satisfaction through innovation and excellence. Since 1945, our firm has amassed a vast array of experience in providing and managing civil infrastructure throughout central and western Queensland.

gbaengineers.com.au

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS + PARTNERS

LUNCH

Aquatec Maxcon



Aquatec Maxcon is a leading Australian provider of water, wastewater and waste-to-energy solutions, delivering innovative, sustainable infrastructure for municipal and industrial clients. With over 55 years of experience, in-house engineering, manufacturing and project delivery capabilities, we provide end-to-end solutions from concept and design through to commissioning and support.

aquatecmaxcon.com.au

AFTERNOON TEA

Engenera



Engenera is a multidisciplinary consultancy specialising in civil, water and structural design. We develop practical and constructable water and wastewater solutions for regional Queensland. Guided by our core principles of innovation, collaboration and sustainability, we help our clients deliver lasting value through resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

engenera.com.au



Wednesday 19th August 2026

0800	REGISTRATION, TEA AND COFFEE		
0845	Welcome and housekeeping	Dr Georgina Davis CEO <i>qldwater</i>	
0855	Opening address	Presenter TBA	
THE QUEENSLAND OUTLOOK			
0915	Queensland's Major Projects and the Pipeline	Andrew Chapman CEO Queensland Major Contractors Association	
0950	Planning for the World's Largest Event	Presenter TBA	
1025	MORNING TEA BREAK		
THE REFORM AGENDA			
1100	A New LWU Funding Approach – Responding to the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission's Review of Funding Models for LWUs	Sascha Moege Manager Water Utility Policy, Pricing and Reform, LWU Policy & Regulation Branch NSW Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	This presentation will update on implementation of the NSW Government's response to the PEC's Review of Funding Models for LWUs. The PEC recommended significant changes to LWU funding and regulation, and the Government has supported in principle adopting its funding principles, including better targeting of funding to need, long-term funding stability, and a possible shift from project-based capital grants to a Community Service Obligation model.
1140	What global and Australian water policy developments mean for Queensland councils	Jim Grayson Director & Sophie Guest Director, Planning and Infrastructure Economics KPMG	Water sector reform is accelerating across Australia and internationally. This session examines recent developments in the UK, New Zealand, Victoria and NSW, before exploring the Productivity Commission's interim findings and their implications for Queensland local government water and wastewater businesses, including pricing, affordability, equity and potential CSO models.
1220	Good practice economic regulation and the implications for Queensland	Tim White Executive Director Utilities Regulation Advisory	Economic regulation establishes the framework for setting water prices. These arrangements differ across jurisdictions and across ownership structures. This presentation will explore the purpose of economic regulation, what good practice looks like, implications for Queensland water service provision and how to be prepared.
1300	LUNCH		

OPPORTUNITIES FROM CHANGE

1400	Making the Case for Water: Securing investment in essential services during fiscal constraint	Jason Lee Group Manager - City Water Redland City Council	Jason's presentation will outline his journey so far at Redland City Council and how he has used data, pricing transparency and strategic advocacy to strengthen recognition of water and wastewater renewal needs and support increased investment in both assets and people. It will focus on practical lessons in turning technical evidence into a compelling case for action, and why transparent, long-term decision-making is critical and absolute for long term and sustainable water services.
1430	Queensland Water Industry: The money, the divide, our people	David Heape Water Lead Amey	Water Authorities in QLD earn \$6.7B yearly - enough to fund the coming capital works wave - but five authorities hold the bulk of the income while the cash-negative Western Councils carry un fundable workforces. Burning out is a high risk, now a legal liability. Suggested Actions to reduce the imbalance and risk
1500	CQROC's QWRAP Risk Review Project	Scott Mason Chief Executive Officer LG Services Group	This presentation describes the outcomes from a very significant body of work undertaken by the CQROC QWRAP Region. It describes the process, the results and discusses the prospects which may be unlocked because of new information.

1530 AFTERNOON TEA BREAK

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

1600	The Last Drop: Fixing Queensland's water and wastewater infrastructure cliff	Josephine Raftery Lead, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Local Government Association of Queensland	Recent research released by LGAQ has shown that Queensland's water infrastructure network is now entering a high-risk age profile, with more than half the network beyond typical service life. The scale of this challenge is well beyond the remit of councils to fund creating real risk to public health, liveability and long-term resilience.
1630	Public Liability	Sarah Hausler Partner McCullough Robertson	
1700	Wrap up and close	Dr Georgina Davis CEO <i>qldwater</i>	

1715 FORUM CLOSE

1800 AWARDS DINNER @ Waters Edge

FORUM AWARDS DINNER



The Forum Dinner, incorporating the qldwater Industry Contribution Awards, is the premier social function of the Forum. Overlooking the Brisbane River, the evening begins with drinks, followed by a two-course alternate drop dinner.

Date: Wednesday 19th August 2026

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Venue: Waters Edge
Level 2, 39 Hercules St
Hamilton Qld 4007

Dress: Business/smart casual.

Tickets: Included in full registrations or optional event for \$190. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, please visit the online registration form.

qldwater INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

The 2026 Forum Awards Dinner will feature two awards that recognise outstanding contributions to the Queensland Urban Water and Sewerage industry.

- **qldwater Government Stakeholder Contribution Award**
- **qldwater Industry Recognition Award**

These awards recognise individuals who have shown exceptional dedication, innovation, and leadership in supporting the development and sustainability of water and sewerage services in Queensland. The recipients of these awards demonstrate a strong commitment to collaboration, knowledge sharing, and best practice implementation within the industry.



TECHNICAL TOUR

Thursday 20th August 2026

All participants are required to wear long sleeves, long pants and sturdy enclosed shoes /steel capped boots - and will not be permitted to board the bus without these.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. We recommend that you bring a hat and sunscreen.

Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pick Up Locations:

- Assemble at 8:30am for a 8:45am departure: Airport International Hotel Brisbane
528 Kingsford Smith Drive, Hamilton
- Assemble at 8:45am for a 9:00am departure: **qldwater** Offices
Level 1, 6 Eagleview Place, Eagle Farm



Veolia Water

Veolia's Northgate Depot showcases a range of portable water treatment technologies that provide flexible, on-demand water and wastewater management. These systems can be rented or purchased for emergency deployments and long-term urban water treatment projects, giving utilities an alternative to the capital cost and footprint of traditional fixed infrastructure.

Southern Redland Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant

This recently completed Advanced Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) plant services up to 13,500 residents, removing at least 99.9% of pathogens before discharge, a higher standard than other conventional plants in South East Queensland. The facility incorporates a 9.8-hectare constructed wetland (Mangrove Offset Area) that further treats and polishes recycled water before release into the environment.



Shoreline Project

This 9.8-hectare mangrove wetland, comprising more than 35,000 propagated or salvaged mangrove plants, has transformed degraded, weed-infested land into a thriving mangrove forest and wetland ecosystem, creating habitat for fish, prawns and wading birds. Delivered in partnership with Redland City Council and Water Technology, the project supports water quality, biodiversity and shoreline resilience, and anchors a four-year Australian Research Council Linkage Grant led by Griffith University in collaboration with Water Technology, Stockland, Redland City Council, and the Queensland Government.

At the conclusion of the tour the bus will drop attendees at Brisbane Airport Domestic Terminal (approx 4:50 - 5:00pm), the **qldwater** Offices (5:05 - 5:15pm) and Airport International Hotel Brisbane (5:15 - 5:25pm).



Andrew Chapman

CEO
**Queensland Major
Contractors Association**

Andrew is a civil engineer with a wide diversity of experience covering the entire project lifecycle from planning through design and construction and into operations and maintenance, having worked across organisations such as Seymour Whyte, Thiess, GHD and Transfield Services. As the CEO of the QMCA Andrew leads the organisation representing the engineering and construction companies that are responsible for the major construction and civil engineering work in the state.



Sascha Moege

Manager Water Utility Policy,
Pricing and Reform, LWU Policy
& Regulation Branch
**NSW Dept of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water**

Sascha Leads strategic reform and policy design for urban water services in regional NSW, including implementing the NSW Government's response to the Review of Funding Models for Local Water Utilities and maintaining the Regulatory and Assurance Framework for Local Water Utilities. Has held various roles in government and non-government sectors across local government, water management, utility regulation, economics, finance and infrastructure.



Jim Grayson

Director
KPMG

Jim Grayson has been part of KPMG Australia's Commercial Infrastructure and Transactions Practice since 2022, bringing more than 25 years of senior leadership experience across government, specialising in commercially focused water projects. As CEO of the Gladstone Area Water Board for over 12 years, he guided three nationally significant bulk-water projects through State and Commonwealth approval pathways. He has held board and committee roles with the Water Services Association of Australia, the Australian Water Association, and the National Water Grid.



Sophie Guest

Director, Planning and
Infrastructure Economics
KPMG

Sophie is a regulatory economist with over 15 years' experience providing strategic advice across the water sector in Australia and New Zealand. She has led a wide range of projects, including business cases, pricing reviews, and policy reforms. Sophie's experience spans government, regulators, water businesses, and operational environments. Her deep expertise in the water industry enables her to support water utilities in navigating complex regulatory environments while aligning organisational priorities with stakeholder expectations and customer outcomes.



Tim White

Executive Director
Utilities Regulation Advisory

Tim is an owner and founder of Utilities Regulation Advisory (URA), which is part of the Utilities Advisory Group. URA specialises in the economic regulation of utility services, including best practice regulatory design, implementation, administration and response.

Tim brings 24 years' experience providing strategic regulatory advice to utilities (both public and private sector), economic regulators and governments around Australia and New Zealand.



Jason Lee

Group Manager - City Water
Redland City Council

Jason Lee is a water industry leader with nearly two decades of experience in wastewater treatment, network maintenance, control room operations, incident management and organisational change. After almost a decade in mining and refinery operations, he began his water career in 2008 as a WWTP Operator with Gold Coast Water, working through the Allconnex merger/demerger, Logan Water and Urban Utilities before joining Redland City Council in 2024 to lead City Water. He is passionate about safe, reliable, sustainable water services and long-term infrastructure investment.



David Heape

Water Lead
Amey

David Heape is a Senior Water and Waste Engineer with a career spanning more than 35 years, dedicated predominantly to hands-on technical delivery. A Registered Professional Engineer (RPEQ, RPE Victoria, APEC), David has worked across both the public and private sectors - from local and state government utilities to developers, miners, and industry designing through to operation of treatment plants, pumping stations, and water networks throughout Queensland and New South Wales.



Scott Mason

CEO
LGSG

Being passionate about 'all things water' is what drives Scott Mason. A local government professional and CEO of a consultancy firm which provides strategic advice to all levels of government, Scott remains contemporary through his service to the CQROC region as QWRAP Regional Coordinator, Chair of the Queensland Great Artesian Basin Advisory Council, Water Advisor to Minister Leahy and Jurisdictional Representative on the Australian Government's Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee.



Josephine Raftery

Lead, Water and
Wastewater Infrastructure
**Local Government Association
of Queensland**

Josie is an infrastructure and environmental planning professional with more than 17 years' experience across state and local government and council advocacy. In her current role as Lead – Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, she drives policy research, submissions and advocacy on water infrastructure funding, including evidence that helped secure Queensland Government support to unlock housing supply.



Sarah Hausler

Partner
McCullough Robertson

Sarah Hausler is a specialist in planning and environment law. With qualifications in environmental science and urban and regional planning, Sarah advises government and private clients on environmental compliance, litigation, infrastructure agreements, and water management. Her expertise spans major developments, waste management projects, and addressing emerging contaminants. Known for her strategic and practical advice, Sarah helps clients navigate complex challenges in infrastructure, water, and environmental law with precision and insight.

Link Portside Wharf Apartment Hotel

47 Hercules Street, Hamilton

Distance to *qldwater* offices: 2.1km (28 min walk)

Distance to Waters Edge: 20m (1 min walk)

Distance to Airport International Hotel (for technical tour departure/drop off): 500m (7 min walk)

Link Portside Wharf Apartment Hotel is situated in the lively Portside Wharf precinct.

Our spacious one- or two-bedroom apartments feature separate bedroom, bathroom, living, dining, kitchen and laundry facilities, along with secure free parking

Link are offering *qldwater* Annual Forum delegates a 10% discount on their Best Available Rate made directly through their website.

Simply use the promotional code "GROUP" when making your reservation on their website - linkportside.com

Airport International Hotel Brisbane

528 Kingsford Smith Drive. Hamilton

Distance to *qldwater* offices: 2.3km (30 min walk)

Distance to Waters Edge: 500m (7 min walk)

Note: Technical Tour buses will depart from and drop off here

The Airport International Hotel is only 10 minutes' drive from both Brisbane Airport and Brisbane city centre. Offering individually decorated suites and apartments with air conditioning, 82-cm LCD cable TV and minibar. Apartments with a balcony are available.

Facilities include 24-hour check in, free car parking and free guest laundry facilities.

Classic Suites are available from \$175 per night . Visit airportmotel.com.au to book

BREAKFAST/DINING OPTIONS

While neither of the accommodation options in Hamilton offer breakfast, there are several options, including the two listed below, just a short distance away, offering a variety of delicious breakfast choices to suit every palate.

H Cafe & Bar - Portside

Shop 2/35A Hercules St, Hamilton

Open 24 hours

H Café & Bar aims to provide a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere for all dining goers from friends to families. We strive to be the social space for people to meet and enjoy a wonderful dining experience, any time of the day and night.

Our menu is a mixture of both traditional café-style foods as well as aromatic Vietnamese dishes to please any diner's palate. We pride ourselves in our friendly customer service to make every dining experience a special one.

See the menu, order for pick up or reserve a table at hcafeandbar.com.au.

Rise Bakery Portside Wharf

Shop 7.01F/39 Hercules St, Hamilton

Open 7:00am - 4:00pm every day (except Mondays)

Rise Bakery is curated by renowned French-born Chef Pâtissier Adrien Marcinowski and Chef Maxime Bournazel. Respecting traditional French baking techniques, Rise Bakery carefully select the best ingredients and never compromise on quality. They prepare and bake everything from viennoiseries, patisseries to savory goods in house, fresh, daily.

For click and collect ordering visit risebakery.com.au/rise-bakery-portside.

		EARLY book by 31 Jul 2026	STANDARD 1 - 18 Aug 2026
FULL REGISTRATION WITH TECHNICAL TOUR Includes: - Attendance at Forum sessions on Wednesday 19 August 2026 - Access to forum papers 1 x Awards Dinner Ticket (19 Aug) 1 x Technical Tour Ticket (20 Aug)	<i>qldwater</i> Member	\$500	\$540
	Non Member	\$600	\$640
FORUM DAY + AWARDS DINNER Includes: - Attendance at sessions on Wednesday 19 August 2026 - Access to forum papers 1 x Awards Dinner Ticket (19 Aug)	<i>qldwater</i> Member	\$330	\$370
	Non Member	\$430	\$470
FORUM DAY ONLY Includes: - Attendance at sessions on Wednesday 19 August 2026 - Access to forum papers	<i>qldwater</i> Member	\$170	\$210
	Non Member	\$270	\$310
AWARDS DINNER TICKET Includes: 1 x Awards Dinner Ticket (19 Aug 2026)		\$190	
TECHNICAL TOUR Includes: 1 x Technical Tour Ticket (19 Aug 2026)	<i>qldwater</i> Member	\$160	
	Non Member	\$200	

HOW TO REGISTER

All registrations must be completed through the online booking form available at <https://events.humanitix.com/qldwater2026>.

The registration process takes approximately 5 minutes and payment can be made using Visa, MasterCard or AMEX (please note there may be a 1.1% surcharge for AMEX). The option to request an invoice and pay by EFT will be available up until 2 August 2024. Please note that registrations won't be confirmed until they are paid in full.

Forum registrations cannot be shared. Strictly one delegate per registration only.

PAYMENT

Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received in full

All fees are in Australian Dollars \$AUD and are inclusive of 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST)

LOCATION

FORUM VENUE

IPWEA-QNT Training Rooms
Level 1, 6 Eagleview Place
Eagle Farm Qld 4009

AWARDS DINNER VENUE

Waters Edge
Level 2, 39 Hercules St
Hamilton Qld 4007

PARKING

There is limited complimentary parking available onsite.

DRESS CODE

The dress standard for the event is business/smart casual.

DIETARY AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please advise on your registration form if you have any dietary or special requirements.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation of your registration must be advised in writing to enquiry@qldwater.com.au.

Cancellations received on or before 31 July 2026 will receive a full refund less a \$110 administration fee, cancellations received after this date will not receive a refund, however, we will accept delegate name changes at any time leading up to the event (differences in registration fees may be applicable).

PRIVACY

In registering for this event, relevant details may be incorporated into a delegate list for the benefit of all delegates (name, organisation and title) and may be made available to parties directly related to the event including **qldwater** and sponsors (subject to conditions). If you do not wish to be included in the delegate list please email enquiry@qldwater.com.au.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to present all the information contained in this brochure as accurately as possible. The organisers reserve the right to change, without notice, any or all of these details.

PHOTOGRAPHY/RECORDING

By registering for the **qldwater** 2026 Annual Forum you consent and grant permission to the Queensland Water Directorate, its agents and others working under its authority, to take and to have full and free use of video/ photographs containing your image/likeness. These images and recordings may be used for promotional, news, online/ multimedia, research and/or educational purposes by and for **qldwater**. Copies of the event photographs will be made available to the attendees after the event.

CONTACT

If you have any questions about the Forum or **qldwater** please contact us using the details below:

qldwater

Level 1, 6 Eagleview Place
Eagle Farm QLD 4009
T: 07 3632 6850
E: enquiry@qldwater.com.au
W: qldwater.com.au