

Water

Department of Planning and Environment



Local Water Utilities newsletter - May 2023



Our roadshows start next week

We are looking forward to meeting with you at one of our upcoming roadshows outlined below. If you haven't signed up, it's not too late! Our first Roadshow is starting this Monday in Dubbo. It will be a great opportunity to collaborate, provide feedback and ask questions.

Register now for one of our five locations:

- [Dubbo - Monday 22 May 2023](#)

- [Tamworth - Tuesday 23 May 2023](#)
- [Coffs Harbour - Friday 26 May 2023](#)
- [Griffith - Tuesday 30 May 2023](#)
- [Queanbeyan - Thursday 1 June 2023](#)

The agenda will include:

- Agencies updates
- Session on the Regulatory and Assurance Framework
- Health based targets
- Policy items
- Town Water Risk Reduction Program Phase 2 update
- Water Efficiency Program
- Interactive case study session
- Panel discussion and question time.

We are looking forward to productive collaboration.

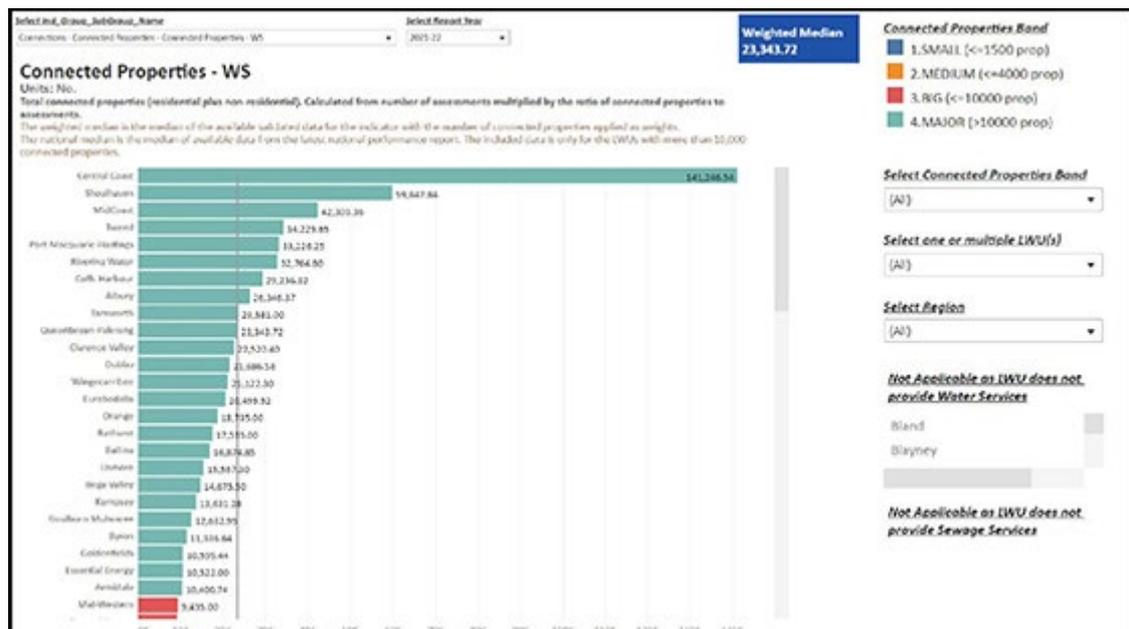
Fee-free skills and training courses



There are still fee-free vocational training places available across the state, in partnership with Training Services NSW. This includes Certificate II, III and IV in Water Industry Operations, part qualifications, school-based traineeships, trade pathways for experienced workers, pre-employment skills and support programs for Aboriginal students.

For more information reach out to Sylvia Rybakowska, our Skills Broker at Training Services NSW, on 0474 972 499 or sylwia.rybakowska1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Local Water Utility 2021-22 Performance data dashboard



The performance data for the 2021-22 reporting year has been published and is available through the [online data dashboard](#) on our website. The performance monitoring data dashboard provides performance data, yearly trends and enables comparison of performance for all NSW local water utilities.

The dashboard now contains data from the last 9 years. This year's report can be selected using the "Select Report Year".

We welcome any feedback or suggestion to help improve the functionality and accessibility of the dashboards. Please use the feedback form located at the bottom of the webpage containing the dashboards or email us at

LWU.PerformanceReporting@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Strategic Planning Assurance update



Local water utilities can best meet the needs of their customers, and manage key risks, when their decisions and activities are based on effective, evidence-based strategic planning. The department is committed that all local water utilities should have in place effective, evidence-based strategic planning. This will ensure utilities deliver safe, secure, accessible, and affordable water supply and sewerage services to customers and can manage key risks now and into the future, and in the event of significant shocks. Under section 3 of the Regulatory and Assurance Framework for Local Water Utilities (RAF), the department sets expectations as to

what effective strategic planning looks like (the 12 outcomes) and seeks to provide assurance of the effectiveness of each utility's strategic planning.

When the strategic planning assurance function under the RAF commenced on 1 December 2022, 9 local water utilities' strategic planning was deemed to be effective and evidence based. Two of these local water utilities have performed their annual check in and the department will be in contact with the other seven over the next few months. The department has received a request for assurance assessment from one LWU and is currently performing the initial assessment. Result is due by the end of May. The department is progressing the development of its dashboard to report on utilities' participation in the assurance function and their assurance results. This will be available soon.

There are currently 43 LWUs currently developing their strategic planning with assistance from the Safe and Secure Water program. If your council is commencing their strategic planning journey and wants to better understand the department's expectations and how to use the assurance function, contact your regional contact.

Works Approval (Section 60 / Section 292 approvals) update



The department continues to work closely with NSW Health and the NSW EPA when assessing Section 60 applications and have set up routine meetings focused on operational issues and process efficiency. The department collaborated with NSW Health to develop their fact sheet on incorporating Health Based Targets into drinking water management systems and Section 60 approvals. [This can be accessed here.](#)

We have just published an updated dashboard on the approval status for works approvals. The new dashboard now includes the status, determination result and the total working days (60 day clock). This data will be updated weekly before further development which will provide automated, near live data. . Take a look [Section 60 approval status - Water in New South Wales \(nsw.gov.au\).](#)

If your council is planning to construct or extend treatment works then get in contact with your contact from our regional teams who will organise a meeting with the Regulatory Assessments team to discuss the application and assessment process. Alternatively email us at section60@dpie.nsw.gov.au and we will be in touch.

Further information

Visit the [Water Utilities section of the website](#) for more detailed 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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