

## Design Standards Newsletter February 2011



### THIS MONTH...

- Accreditation reform update

Over the next 6 months Hunter Water will be introducing an updated Accredited Designer Scheme. The scheme will expand on the current system, formalise assessment criteria and define performance expectations of Accredited Designers. The Scheme will increase the transparency on the design review process and enable Hunter Water to trial an audit role, streamlining the review process.

As with current policies only designs completed by Accredited Designers will be accepted for any development applications.

#### What will be some of the new requirements for Consultancy firms seeking to become a designer accredited with Hunter Water?

- submission of a capability statement detailing the consultant's capability in the design category nominated;
- certificates of currency for the various insurances, such as Workers Compensation, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity.
- ongoing performance management of design submissions;
- nominate a "Principal Design Certifier" within the consultancy and include the WSAA Designer Trainer Certificate of Competency for the same;
- a copy of the purchase receipt for the Hunter Water Editions of WSAA Design Codes;

Application under the scheme will form an agreement between Hunter Water and the consultant governing the relationship (between Hunter Water and Accredited Design Consultants) and setting out a range of terms and conditions, performance expectations, measures and consequences of non-compliance.

#### I am currently accredited, how will this affect me?

All current and prospective Accredited Designers will need to apply to the new scheme in order to continue submitting development designs. **Current accredited designers that have submitted designs to Hunter Water in the past 2 years will have their prior experience recognised and not be required to submit a capability statement for water and sewerage reticulation design, however they must still successfully complete the WSAA Designer Assurance Scheme training (further details on the next page).** For designers not currently actively working in the Hunter or for accreditation in critical infrastructure areas, such as pump stations, a capability statement will still be required.

# Updates February



### How will the scheme be implemented?

#### March – May

Hunter Water will begin coordinating training programs as part of the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) Designer Assurance Scheme, and an information / application will be sent to all current and prospective accredited designers and posted on the Hunter Water website detailing the information required for application submission.

Consultants will have until the end of May to complete the application pack for submission as part of the initial implementation. Late applications will be accepted however they may not be processed within this time frame.

#### June – August

Hunter Water will assess the application and notify consultants of the outcomes.

As part of the accreditation process, conditional accreditation may be granted to consultants that do not fully meet the assessment criteria in order to allow time for them to gain full accreditation. Conditional accreditation will be for 6-12 month period only. Conditionally Accredited Designers will need to demonstrate compliance prior to the end of the nominated period.

When the new accreditation register is adopted, only design submissions from designers accredited (or conditionally accredited) under the new scheme will be accepted.

### What about the training?

One key change in the Accredited Designer Scheme will be the introduction of a **Design Certifier** who will have a quality control role within each firm. Each design submitted to Hunter Water will be required to have been checked and certified as conforming to the appropriate design standards by the firm's Design Certifier.

For water and sewer reticulation design submissions, Design Certifiers will be required to have successfully completed the WSAA water and/or sewer design courses, which are being initiated under the WSAA Designer Assurance Scheme.

### WSAA Designer Assurance Scheme

WSAA has adopted a designer training package developed by City West Water in Melbourne. The package covers all aspects of reticulation design from planning to design review and utilises the WSAA design codes as a reference. The package is split into two courses – Water Supply and Sewerage.

Hunter Water has adopted the training package as a measure of competency for the Accredited Designer Scheme.

Each course will be delivered locally and is run over 3 days. The courses will be organised through WSAA and cost \$1,200 ex GST each.

Initially only one place will be made available in each discipline (water supply and sewerage) to each consultancy for the individuals selected to be the Design Certifiers. Additional places will be made available where the courses are not completely filled by prospective Design Certifiers. Sufficient course places will be available for all consultancies seeking accreditation.

### Course Details

Courses will be held at Bimet Lodge on the following dates:

**28-30 March – Sewer**  
**4-6 April – Water**  
**11-13 April – Sewer**  
**18-20 April – Water**

Courses places will be reserved on a *first come first served* basis.

Course application and payment must be made to WSAA two weeks prior to the course date.

To reserve your place in the course please send the name and contact details (phone and email) of the individual(s) nominated as the Design Certifier as well as the first and second preference dates to [standards@hunterwater.com.au](mailto:standards@hunterwater.com.au).

Should you have any further enquires regarding the Designer Accreditation Scheme or training please contact Ian Hiles on 02 4979 9599 or enquiries can be sent to [standards@hunterwater.com.au](mailto:standards@hunterwater.com.au).

### Design Standards Links

**Water Supply and Sewerage Codes:**  
<http://www.hunterwater.com.au/3316.aspx>  
**Design Manual Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7**  
<http://www.hunterwater.com.au/3300.aspx>

### Standard Drawings

<http://www.hunterwater.com.au/3301.aspx>

### Standard Technical Specifications

<http://www.hunterwater.com.au/3299.aspx>

### Products and Materials Registers

<http://www.hunterwater.com.au/217.aspx>