

Operations Network Fact Sheet

What's the aim of the Operations Network?

The Operations Network was formed in 2007. It was one of the first Specialist Networks formed under the Australian Water Association. Prior to this no formal network existed within the Association that addressed the members who worked as part of the operations sector of the water industry.

The aim of this network is to raise the profile and importance of operations in the water industry by developing an Australia-wide network of connected Australian Water Association Operations professionals.

Who is in the Operations Network?

The Operations Network includes people working from all areas of water industry operations from the catchments and dams through to treatment processes - water, wastewater, recycled water, desalination, industrial water, stormwater - and their associated transport systems. Both public and privately-run businesses are involved.

Plant managers

Reliability engineers

Equipment suppliers

Plant operators

Operational safety specialists

SCADA and automation programmers and designers

Operations designers

Monitoring and analysis staff

Risk management professionals

Operations constructors

Modelling professionals (hydraulic, water quality, process, etc.)

Incident management specialists

Maintainers

Operations contract managers

Environmental scientists

Plus many more!

What subject areas does Operations cover?

Operations

- Excellence in operations
- Operations of water resources infrastructure (dams) & catchments
- Operations of membrane systems
- Safety in operations
- Automation of operations
- Operating to meet or exceed environmental & sustainability targets
- Dewatering & disposal of biosolids & water treatment residuals
- Process management & monitoring
- Quality systems to support operations
- Innovation in design for improvements to operations
- Operations of recycled water systems
- Operator training & certification
- Climate change & its effect on operations
- Operating in times of structural change
- Benchmarking operations
- Customer engagement

Implementing advances in technology

- Advances in water, wastewater or recycled water treatment & recovery
- Advances in network infrastructure management
- Pressure sewerage systems
- Research in water & wastewater technology
- Smart design in water & wastewater supply
- Value adding to storm water & drainage design

Maintenance

- Operations & maintenance contracts
- Maintenance management
- Reliability management
- Maintainer/Operators

Incidents and emergencies

- Scenario planning & incident preparedness
- Emergency risk management
- Disaster recovery & control
- Operational incident management

Regional challenges

- Joint organisations and regional cooperation
- Water sharing plans
- Affordable supply options for remote communities

Regulatory challenges

- Compliance problems & solutions
- Outcome/risk-based regulation
- Cost/operational control to meet changes in the water industry
- Safety management & OHS/WHS issues
- Implementing water quality management systems for both drinking water & reclaimed water

The Operations Network Committee can be contacted through the Australian Water Association via networks@awa.asn.au. If you would like to join the Operations Network, and you're a member of the Association, you can log in to your account and select "Operations" under the Specialist Network tab. If there are any Operations events or important information, you'll be updated via email.