Platform or Poster: Platform Paper

Title of Abstract:

NSW Water operator competency benchmark and workforce development

Abstract:

Workers in the water industry face public health, environmental and work health and safety risks. Water operators need quality training to ensure they have the skills to manage these risks. This training is not currently well defined or easily accessible. NSW DCCEEW is proposing to introduce a competency benchmark, outlining appropriate training for water operators in NSW local water utilities. This would specify the scope and content of vocational training to drive improved access and quality of training delivered by registered training organisations. It would support operators to work across systems and locations within NSW and align with the Water Industry Operator Registration framework. Importantly, it would give the local water utilities the leading voice in the training delivered to their staff, now and into the future.

The department recently undertook a workforce composition survey of local water utilities across the state. This information is helping to inform a workforce development strategy for the sector to address skills shortages by ensuring the industry can attract, train and retain quality staff to support a sustainable workforce.

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