



# Queensland Urban Water Industry Opportunities

**Carlie Sargent**  
*qldwater &*  
**Kathryn Turner**  
**Urban Utilities**

# Water Skills Partnership

- Ten Years of Industry Collaboration
- State Winner of Queensland Training Premier's Industry Collaboration 2021 Award
- 51 Subscribers in 2020-21
- Industry Skills Advisor to DESBT
- Focus on funding for skills and training
- Skills/workforce development projects
- Pilot training initiatives
- Information sharing
- Annual Skills Forum
- Workforce reports
- Managed by *qldwater*



Queensland  
Training  
AWARDS 2021  
60 YEARS CELEBRATING  
the power of skills



State winner  
#QTA2021 #SkillsPower



waterskills  
PARTNERSHIP

# Urban Water Industry

- Essential community service
- Protect health and safety of communities and the environment through:
  - Drinking water treatment
  - Wastewater collection and treatment
  - Catchment management
  - Distribution of water to the community
  - Environmental monitoring
  - Dam operations and management
- Innovative systems and advanced technology

# Industry Profile

- 66 local councils outside SEQ
- 3 local councils in SEQ
- 2 statutory authorities managing water and sewerage for 8 SEQ local councils
  - Urban Utilities
  - Unitywater
- 2 state owned bulk water suppliers
  - Seqwater
  - Sunwater
- 2 state owned statutory authorities
  - Gladstone Area Water Board
  - Mt Isa Water Board

**370**

water supply  
schemes

**265**

sewerage  
schemes

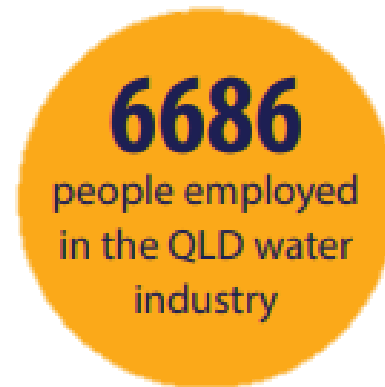
**75**

water service  
providers in  
QLD\*



# Jobs in Demand

- More than 6,000 people employed plus support industries
- Jobs in capital cities and regional and remote communities
- Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators
- Operations & Maintenance Workers (Water Industry Workers)
- Engineers
- Scientists
- Environmental Officers
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- Mechanical Tradespeople



# Why Work in Water?



## CAREERS IN WATER

brought to you by the  
**waterskills**  
PARTNERSHIP

Luke Ellis

Operator - Supply  
Seqwater

# Treatment Plant Operators

- Certificate II or III in Water Industry Operations
- Suits those who enjoy maths and science
- Conservation and environmental protection focus
- Ensure the supply of safe drinking water to communities
- Treat sewage before reuse or discharge back to the environment
- Sampling and testing of water and wastewater
- Monitor water and/or wastewater flows
- Operate pumps, gauges, aerators, plant equipment
- Chemical dosing and monitoring – including remote systems
- Compliance with standards and legislation
- Focus on automation and digitisation



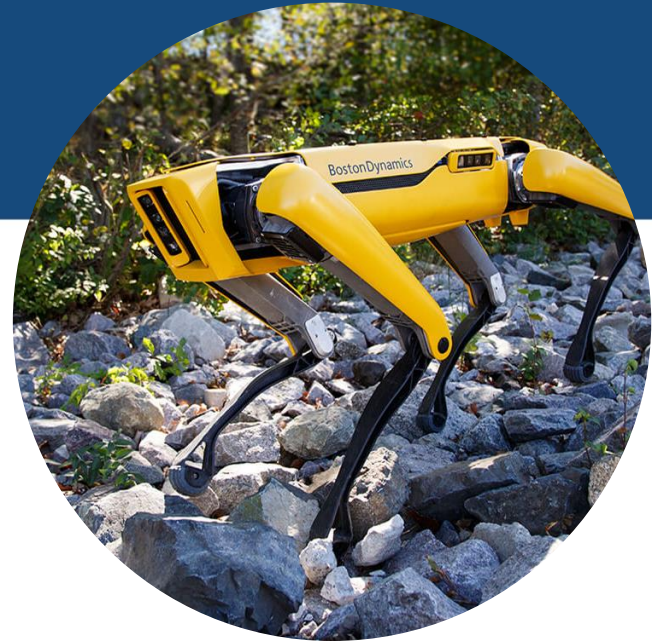
# Water Industry Workers (Networks)



- Certificate II or III in Water Industry Operations or Trade
- Ensure the systems used to supply drinking water to communities and collect wastewater for treatment are in good working order
- Most systems are underground (pipes)
- Ongoing repairs and maintenance as well as construction
- Suits those who enjoy practical work
- Mostly outdoors working in teams
- Risk management focus



# Digital Futures



# Training Pathways

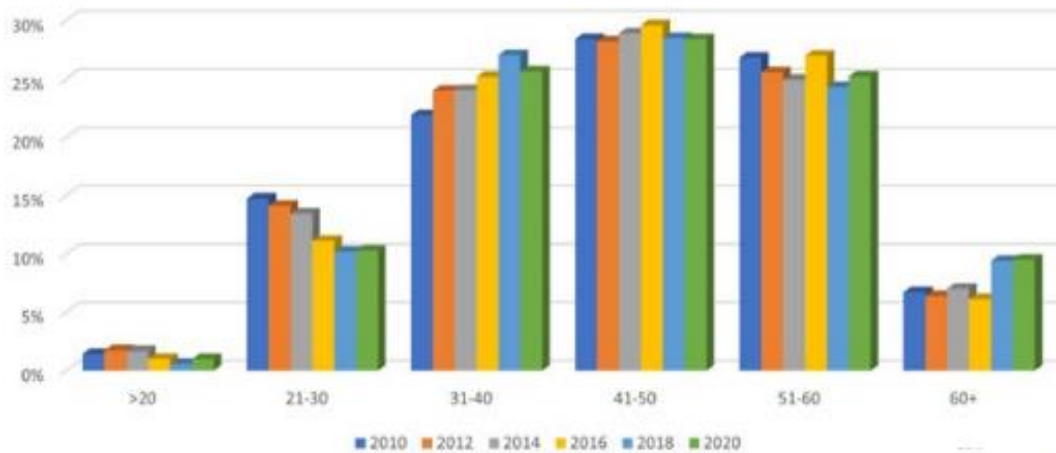
- Micro-Credentials (entry-level)
  - Water Treatment
  - Wastewater Treatment
  - Network Operations
- Traineeships
  - Certificate II in Water Industry Operations
  - Certificate III in Water Industry Operations
  - Specialisations in Catchments and Dams, Civil Construction, Irrigation Water Supply, Networks, Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Water and Wastewater Treatment
- Certificate IV/Diploma in Water Industry Operations
- Operator Registration – Industry Designed Competency Framework

# Workforce Trends

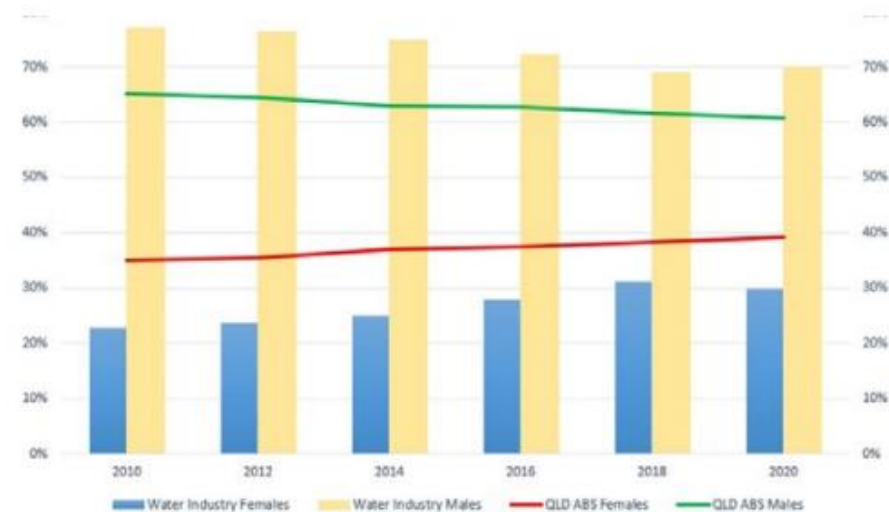
- Biennial workforce reports since 2010 tracking Queensland water industry workforce trends and issues
- 2020 report includes 16 responses from a representative sample of water and sewerage service providers
- Shows there are current and predicted Skills Shortages
  - Construction
  - Operations
  - Engineering
- Ageing Workforce

[https://qldwater.com.au/Skills\\_Workforce\\_Resources\\_and\\_Publications](https://qldwater.com.au/Skills_Workforce_Resources_and_Publications)

# We Need More Young People and Women!



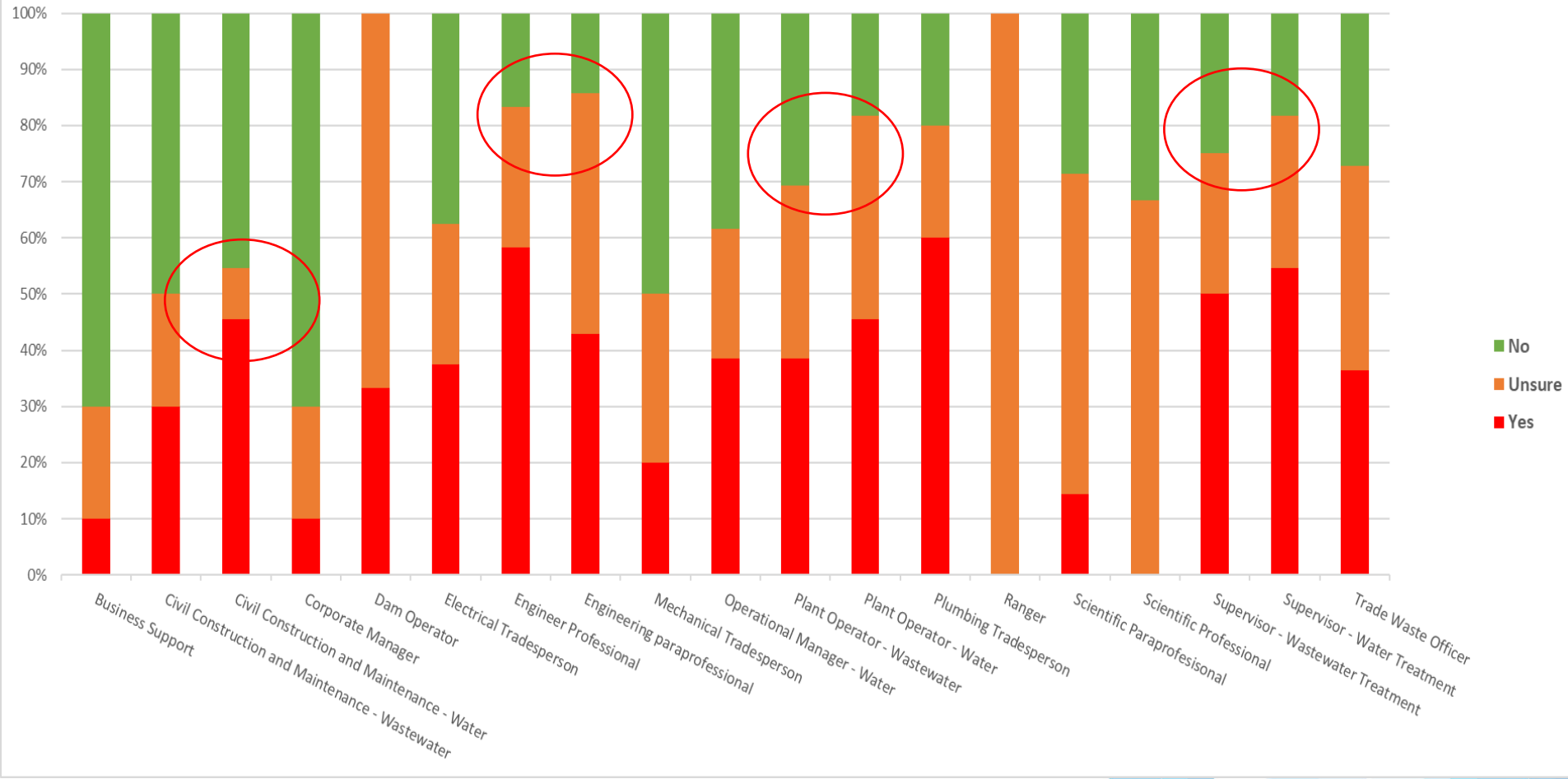
- **35%** of the workforce is aged **over 50** years
- **11%** of the workforce is aged **under 30** years



In 2020, women form **30%** of the total water industry workforce.



# Skills Shortages



# Career Resources

- Urban Utilities - <https://urbanutilities.com.au/community/education-program>
  - Tours (currently on hold due to COVID)
  - Interactive Workshops
  - School Conservation Programs
  - Industry Placements
- Seqwater - <https://www.seqwater.com.au/education>
  - Book a Site Tour
  - Virtual/Guided Lessons
  - Incursions
- Unitywater - <https://www.unitywater.com/community/education>
  - Virtual Tours
  - Interactive Water Cycle

# www.qldwatercareers.com.au

HOME WATER CAREERS STUDY OPTIONS TESTIMONIALS JOBS CONTACT

VIEW CAREERS



Everything you need to know about working in the

**urban water &  
sewerage industry  
in Queensland**



## Careers in Water

The Queensland water industry is responsible for providing safe, secure and sustainable water and sewerage services to **4.9 million constituents** and employs just over **6,000 workers**.

- Industry Profile
- Career Profiles
- Testimonials
- Jobs Board
- Career Pathways
- Study Options
- Training Providers
- FAQs

*qldwater* is a business unit of IPWEAQ and is an initiative of:



Carlie Sargent  
*qldwater*

*e: csargent@qldwater.com.au*

*p: 07 3632 6853*

*w: www.qldwater.com.au*