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Water operators recognised with national certification

Orange City Council is leading the way in training and development of its staff after water treatment operators received national certification.

Of 60 water treatment operators who were recently certified with the national Water Industry Operators Alliance (WIOA), 18 were from the central west, four from Orange City Council.

The four staff, water treatment operator, Craig Rawsthorne, water treatment team leader Mark Gogala, water treatment supervisor, Geoff Warren and senior water treatment supervisor Glen Wicks were awarded with their certification last week.

Orange Mayor Reg Kidd congratulated the four staff for their dedication to providing residents with the highest quality drinking water.

“After 6 years of navigating the bureaucracy and complexities of water training in NSW, it’s very satisfying these Operators received their certificates in front of peers from their own and other councils,” Cr Kidd said.

“Our staff have always been highly qualified and well-trained and this is another string in that bow.

“This national framework was officially adopted in June last year.

“It is rare to have so many staff with this certification in the central west, let alone four from our own Council.

“Orange City council will benefit greatly and residents can be confident our staff are doing their job to meet best practice and are dedicated to excellence.

“Council is committed to ensuring our staff are highly-trained and use best practice in all areas to provide the best service to Orange residents.”

Water treatment supervisor Geoff Warren said it was great Council supported his team in achieving their training goals.

“This type of training, supported by Council, is not only a win for the residents but it’s great for the individual employees also,” Mr Warren said.

“In terms of career goals and pathways in the water industry, the sky is the limit with this type of industry-based certification.”

The WIOA certification training, administered by Centroc and delivered by North Coast TAFE, provides an assurance to regulators, communities and consumers that water operators are competent to manage drinking water quality, as well as being capable of identifying and responding to water quality risks and incidents.

Orange will host the WIOA Water Operations Conference and Exhibition in Orange in April 2019.

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