



SONITRON

ABN 66 021 652 107

EXTENSION of GOVERNMENT CONTROL of WATER USAGE in SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

For the benefit of customers who were unable to attend recent meetings on the above subject we will summarise some points from the discussions and outcomes so far.

- 1. Water usage in Queensland is controlled by the Queensland Water Commission (QWC). Their present strategy is that some form of restriction will be PERMANENT. Rainfall and dam levels will determine what level of restrictions applies in each part of Queensland.**
- 2. Businesses such as ours (Sonitron®) operating in a fixed location have been under regulation for some time. Some mobile businesses such as external house washing, driveway cleaning, dog washes etc., have been regulated for some time. They are now extending the net to include all such businesses including Carpet Cleaning.**
- 3. The current format is that all such businesses must be registered.**
 - (a) Industry and QWC will develop specific water use efficiency guidelines.**
 - (b) Industry associations provide training.**
 - (c) Businesses register with Commerce Queensland after training.**
 - (d) Registered water efficient operators are identified through van signage.**
- 4. NUCCA organised meetings in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast to allow carpet cleaners to talk to QWC. QWC invited submissions from NUCCA and/or individual operators by 31st July. Some submissions have been received.**

The interesting question is – What can be done to decrease water usage without reducing cleaning efficiency? Obviously leaking machines and leaking hoses must be eliminated. (there are still some out there!)

Most problems in society are solved by technological development rather than by Government. A couple of related issues of this type were raised at one of the meetings.

.../over

- **Recycling**

Some auto scrubbers for hard surfaces have been manufactured which recycle water. These may be used, for example to scrub the entry foyer of a major supermarket. However this area is heavily contaminated by the huge passing traffic. It is a different proposition to a carpet in someone's home where young children are crawling around on the carpet and teenagers are lying on it to watch television. The problems in getting water pure enough for this type of end use using portable recycling equipment are massive and at present unsolved. Normally recycling is operated at a fixed location with substantial plant and strict laboratory control. Even when this applies there is a lack of public acceptance, (the Toowoomba referendum was negative) and there is much debate about the purity and suitability of the final product. Most people are happy with it for uses such as flushing toilets.

- **Encapsulation**

The outlook here is more positive. In general the technique uses about 10% of the water required for hot water soil extraction and the results are excellent. It is a vast improvement over the old conventional dry cleaning methods which have been around for some time.

In some cases extraction gives better results than encap, but in an equal number of cases the reverse now applies. We believe that we would have a stronger industry, better able to deal with various levels of Government on water issues and better able to withstand attacks from miscellaneous "greenies" if most carpet cleaners could offer both methods.