



MEDIA RELEASE

Water reform must not be yesterday's news

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Yesterday, the National Water Commission released its comprehensive assessment of water reform progress in Australia, providing 12 recommendations to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The Australian Water Association (AWA) advocates for the continuation of the national water agenda as raised by the National Water Commission and adds its voice to the call for leadership from governments across the continent.

AWA Chief Executive, Mr Tom Mollenkopf, has said that while AWA and the National Water Commission may occasionally differ on the detail within the water agenda, the fundamental need for such an agenda is clear.

“Water is, and always has been, a precious and essential resource, the sound management of which relies on well considered policies, not good luck.

“This report comes at a crucial time. AWA has been increasingly concerned about the risk of complacency in water matters, particularly following the recent rainfall in parts of the nation.

“It is important to recognise that it is the variability and volatility of rainfall in Australia, rather than a general lack of water that causes our water problems. It is times like now, when the dam levels are up, that we should look at the long term by continuing to encourage sound water practices and investment in diverse sources of water – whether these be recycling, desalination inter-basin transfers or demand management”, said Mr Mollenkopf.

“Australia has earned an enviable reputation in the global community on the efficiency and effectiveness of our water sector in our particularly demanding environment. At times like these, we must not squander the opportunity to secure our water future.”

The recommendations from the National Water Commission to COAG are available from <http://www.nwc.gov.au/www/html/3130-recommendations.asp?intSiteID=1>



Notes to editors:

- Australian Water Association (AWA) Chief Executive, Mr Tom Mollenkopf, is available for interviews.
- AWA is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines.
- AWA provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- AWA works to enhance the skills and knowledge of water professionals and promote and disseminate best practice through an extensive range of technical seminars, courses and events.