



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **AWA welcomes opportunity to comment on Developing Northern Australia Green Paper**

**10 June 2014**

The Australian Water Association (AWA) welcomes the release of the Green Paper on Developing Northern Australia for comment and congratulates those appointed as Advisory Group Members.

The key issues articulated by the Green Paper, including delivering economic infrastructure, improving land use and access, improving water access and management, promoting trade and investment, fostering education and innovation, and enhancing governance, are aligned with the key areas that AWA believes need to be the focus to develop a prosperous Australia.

Australian Water Association Chief Executive, Jonathan McKeown, said that ensuring the involvement of the public and industry groups in developing the White Paper is imperative in ensuring the Paper released later this year is evidenced-based and improves the prosperity for all Australians.

“The Australian Water Association offers their assistance in providing information and know-how to the Advisory Group on the key issues identified in the Report. The Association especially wants the Panel to understand the true value of water as an economic driver, and its importance across all key themes.

“Sustainable water management is of the highest priority, however, it should be also noted that water is the single biggest driver for economic prosperity in Australia. The food and beverage industry, agribusiness, power and energy, mining and tourism, all depend on water and its proper management to succeed.

“With Northern Australia’s access to Asia there is opportunity for unprecedented economic growth, however we must ensure we get the development plan right to guarantee long-term prosperity with no ongoing negative environmental consequences,” said Mr McKeown.

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