

MEDIA RELEASE**Will rain in South Australia take the focus off drought concerns?**

28 July 2016: How much do you know about your water supply? The Australian Water Association and Arup have partnered for a second year to conduct the [Australian Water Survey](#) to better understand community concerns regarding water.

The 2015 Australian Water Consumer Survey found that South Australians were conservative in their use of water and were most concerned about drought. South Australians also significantly rated water prices as being too high compared to the rest of the nation.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said last year's survey also revealed that more than half of South Australians were very supportive of using alternative sources of water including recycled water, desalinated water and stormwater.

"Consumers right across Australia are concerned about water shortages, but the key concerns for South Australians last year were drought (77%), climate change (67%) and intensive agriculture (57%). South Australians were significantly less concerned about mining and extractive industries, population impacts and unconventional gas impacts than the national average."

"It will be interesting to see how South Australians respond this year given the developments that have taken place in the state including the recent spate of burst water pipes and the debate around desalinated water prices."

Mr McKeown said community participation in the survey was crucial to adequately reflect community issues in the report.

Key South Australian takeaways from 2015:

- 76% of residents were concerned about drought
- 51% strongly agreed or agreed that their household is active in saving water (compared to national average of 46%)
- 56% strongly agreed or agreed that there is scope for more dams in the north of Australia (higher than national average of 46%)

The [Australian Water Survey](#) opened on 18 June 2016 and closes 12 August 2016.

The results will be revealed in October at the IWA World Water Congress in Brisbane.

-END-

Media enquiries:

Ashleigh James

0488 160 277

ajames@awa.asn.au

About the Australian Water Association

The Australian Water Association is Australia's leading membership association for water professionals and organisations. AWA is independent and not for profit. It plays an essential role in supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices. Our mission is to foster knowledge, understanding and advancement in sustainable

water management – its science, practice and policy – through advocacy, collaboration and professional development.

We operate across all Australian States and Territories through an active branch network as well as maintaining extensive international links, including with the International Water Association. AWA's provides a comprehensive program of conferences, workshops, publications, industry programs, training courses, networking and B2B opportunities. AWA's Annual Conference and Exhibition is Australia's largest water industry event.

About Arup

Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world's most prominent projects in the built environment and across industry. From 90 offices in 38 countries our 11,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion.

www.arup.com