



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Australian water industry welcomes Queensland's 30-year water strategy and calls for water to be recognised as a major driver for future prosperity**

24 June 2014

The Australian Water Association (AWA) congratulates Queensland's Water Supply Minister, Mark McArdle, and the Department of Energy and Water Supply on the release of *WaterQ, a 30-year strategy for Queensland's water sector*.

AWA acknowledges that the task of synthesising a long-term water sector strategy to seven priorities is a difficult one, and we believe that overall the strategy clearly supports increased productivity, economic growth, healthy communities and the environment.

AWA Chief Executive, Jonathan McKeown, said that for Queensland, and indeed Australia, to reach its full economic and social potential it will require significant expansion of land and development and population growth and that these major drivers of economic prosperity need to be balanced carefully with sustainable water usage and environmental protection.

"The Australian Water Association sees *WaterQ* as a great blueprint for the future of water in Queensland and we look forward to working with the Government in its implementation. The Association is keen to learn more about how the Queensland Government intends to deliver the actions outlined in the Strategy, to maximise these economic activities and emerging industries. The 30 year Strategy needs to be owned by the community as an effective process of sustainable water management that delivers economic prosperity for the State.

"AWA is particularly pleased with the focus the Queensland Government has placed on developing our knowledge and skills in the sector, and exploiting these through innovation and technology.

"AWA is also focusing on the promotion of the water industry's innovative technologies and we look forward to working with the Queensland Government as they further realise these actions, particularly the Innovation Panel", said Mr McKeown.

The Association is however disappointed that drinking recycled water was noted as being off the table as a supply option.

"The Association believes in the importance of having a diversified portfolio of supply options, one of which is recycled water. It is disappointing that the 30 year Strategy rules it out completely, thus removing the opportunity for customers and communities to make fully informed decisions", said Mr McKeown.

The Association looks forward to working with the Queensland Government and our broad industry members to ensure that details are further developed, the key actions are implemented and priority outcomes are achieved.

For more information:

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