

Media Release

Victorian water professionals satisfied with economic regulation of water

State of the Water Sector Report 2013 released

14 November 2013: The State of the Water Sector Report 2013, a joint report by the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Deloitte, has found that the Victorian water sector are more satisfied with the economic regulation of water than any other jurisdiction.

Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association, Jonathan McKeown, said the report was based on a survey of more than 1,500 members of Australia's water industry and continued to be one of the most comprehensive periodic reviews of attitudes across the Australian water sector.

"Today AWA met with the Minister for Water, Peter Walsh, to discuss the findings of our Report and highlight the key areas of concern for local water professionals.

"AWA conveyed to Minister Walsh that Victorian respondents are more positive than other respondents across Australia in relation to the overall state of the water sector, and are also more satisfied with the economic regulation of water than any other jurisdiction. This arguably reflects positively on the Victorian water price review process which took place during 2012-13.

"Further AWA highlighted that Victorians place most support in water retailers/distributors as being the best placed to decide when water supplies should be augmented. 40% of respondents agreed on this, with only 26% backing relevant government departments (compared to 39% nationally) – perhaps reflecting concern around government decisions to build the Wonthaggi desalination plant.

Deloitte Risk Services Partner and National Water Leader Matt Williams went on to say that at the time of the survey, more Victorians working in the sector (38%) considered that the price of water was about right, compared to the rest of the country (33%).

"It will be interesting to see the trend in next year's survey as to whether this position changes following price rises of more than 20% in Melbourne that took effect in July 2013," he said.

To access the full *State of the Water Sector Report 2013*, visit deloitte.com.au or awa.asn.au



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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.

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