



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **National Water Week 2011 – ‘Healthy Catchments, Healthy Communities’**

14 October 2011

National Water Week 2011 being held next week, 16 - 21 October 2011, is the premier community water awareness event in Australia, hosted by the Australian Water Association (AWA).

This year's theme – *Healthy Catchments, Healthy Communities* – will provide a platform for schools and communities to get involved in raising awareness about water issues. Also, as part of National Water Week, water professionals who are members of AWA are volunteering their time to engage and inspire students about catchment health. This year, over 130 ambassadors have signed up to visit schools across Australia.

There are numerous events being held in Western Australia including:

- **Waterwise Edible Garden Display**  
Visit an 'Organic Kitchen Garden' display and enter the draw to win your own organic kitchen garden valued at over \$1,200.
- **Ripple Effects - An event for water lovers**  
An evening of information and discussion about some of the science of water and unique approaches to valuing and saving our precious resource.
- **Pennlake Drain to Living Stream**  
Join the Friends of Market Garden Swamp, the City of Cockburn and Conservation Volunteers convert a drain into a living stream.

Mr Tom Mollenkopf, Chief Executive of AWA said that this week is important in raising public awareness and understanding of water issues in Australia, particularly in regards to catchment management.

“The ways in which we live and work with these catchments have an impact on the quality of water that flows into these waterways. Poor management practices on land can lead to deterioration in water quality. Poor water quality is damaging to the natural environment and increases the level of treatment that our water requires.

“National Water Week is a great opportunity for students and communities to look at what they can do to minimise water consumption in their local area, securing our water for generations to come”, said Mr Mollenkopf.

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A list of all National Water Week events can be found at [www.nationalwaterweek.com.au](http://www.nationalwaterweek.com.au)

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#### Notes to Editors

- National Water Week is coordinated by the Australian Water Association
- First held in 1993, National Water Week is the only event in Australia that provides a national focus for water issues.
- The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines
- 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