

AUSTRALIAN[®] WATER

ASSOCIATION

Australian Water Association launches Water Innovation Forum & Expo 2016

7 December 2015

The Australian Water Association Chief Executive, Jonathan McKeown, welcomes the Federal Government's announcement it will spend up to \$1.1 billion over the next four years on innovation to drive an 'ideas boom' across Australia.

Innovation is as important for water as it is for many other parts of the economy, and today the Australian Water Association launched its 2016 national Water Innovation Forum and Expo.

"Given the aging infrastructure and climatic pressures on water, Australia's future water security relies on major innovation in technology, design and approach," Mr McKeown said.

"Our national Water Innovation Forum and Expo is the country's foremost platform for people working in water-using industries to come together and discuss innovation, emerging technology, sustainability and exchange fresh and ground-breaking ideas.

"Now more than ever it is critical to support, promote and cultivate innovation if we are to increase efficiencies, improve practices and withstand any water challenge that comes our way.

"Today's innovation announcement is visionary, but has strong practical application to Australia's SMEs.

"The Australian Water Association has been taking small and medium sized innovation companies to international markets through our Innovation and International Programs, so I'm pleased to see the \$36 million earmarked for Australians wanting to take their ideas internationally.

"It is also good to see such strong funding for the CSIRO who have a demonstrated track record of delivering innovation. CSIRO will provide a keynote address at the Water Innovation Forum and Expo."

This is the second year in a row the Water Innovation Forum and Expo has been held, and it will feature high-profile speakers from government, utilities and corporations, as well as nearly 30 pitches from innovators, SMEs, entrepreneurs and start-ups.

"The Water Innovation Forum and Expo is really the industry's opportunity to join together and explore the new thinking, new possibilities and the cutting-edge technology that are needed to secure the future of Australia's most precious resource," Mr McKeown continued.

The Australian Water Association has a strong Innovation Program including the Innovation Incubator which facilitates the acceleration, market entry and commercialisation of technologies addressing water and wastewater management challenges.

AUSTRALIAN[®] WATER

ASSOCIATION

The national Water Innovation Forum and Expo will take place at the Royal Randwick in Sydney on 10-11 March, 2016.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Ashleigh James

Australian Water Association

Ph: 02 9467 8423

E: ajames@awa.asn.au