

MEDIA RELEASE

Will drought and dams still be top priorities for Queenslanders?

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

With 83.9% of Queensland drought declared, it is little surprise that the top concern for Queenslanders in the 2015 Australian Water Consumer Survey was drought.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said: "Better than average rainfall in June 2016, as well as some significant day events in July, provide some small relief to drought-affected areas. However, we believe that drought will continue to be the number one concern for Queensland respondents in the 2016 survey.

"Last year the majority of Queensland consumers felt the price for water was too high, a much greater proportion than the rest of the country. Those in Queensland were also more supportive for additional dams in Australia, with over half agreeing that there is scope for more in the north of Australia, and over a third for more in the south."

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

Key Qld statistics 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%)

In 2015, there was strong support for alternative water sources across the country, with 90% agreeing water recycling was a sustainable non-drinking source and 82% supporting stormwater re-use. Alternative water sources were widely accepted for drinking, led by desalinated water (82% agreeing or strongly agreeing), recycled water (69%) and stormwater (56%).

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.

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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.

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.

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