

MEDIA RELEASE**Will Western Australians again say they think the price of water is too low?**

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

Western Australians were more concerned about the impacts of climate change and population growth on water supplies than any other State or Territory in the 2015 Australian Water Consumer Survey. Perth has recorded a drop in average rainfall over recent years, resulting in an 80% decrease in rainfall into Perth's dams since the 1970s.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said that the majority of consumers nation-wide felt the price for water was about right or too low, however in Western Australia, where the prices are amongst the highest in the country, 32% felt the price was too low (compared to 18% nationally).

"Only 24% of WA respondents described the price of water as too high, which is significantly less than the 38% nationally. Interestingly, 37% disagree that the price of water makes you careful about how much you use and 45% thought water should be priced higher so people use less – very different statistics to the other jurisdictions."

It will be interesting to see what the results of this year's survey are considering a number of recent developments in Perth including the new recycling plant.

"Perth's new recycling plant will use advanced treatment, including ultra-filtration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet disinfection on secondary treated wastewater to help replenish groundwater supplies. The plant, expected to open later in 2016, will provide 14 billion litres of drinking water on top of the supply already provided by Perth's two desalination plants and could have a positive impact on consumer feedback in the 2016 Australian Water Survey."

Key WA takeaways from 2015:

- 76% of Western Australians were concerned or very concerned about climate change (compared to national average of 68%)
- 72% were concerned or very concerned about population growth (compared to national average of 66%)
- 77% agreed or strongly agreed that they support recycled water as an alternative water source for drinking purposes (compared to national average of 69%)

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

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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