



15th IWA International Conference on WATER RECLAMATION & REUSE

Water Reuse: Accelerating Circularity, Securing Resilience

Water reuse is moving from an optional water management strategy to a core component of resilient, circular and fit-for-purpose water systems.

As climate change, population growth, changing customer needs and increasing competition for water place greater pressure on water resources, IWA Reuse 2027 will bring together researchers, utilities, industry, regulators, governments and communities to explore how water reuse can be implemented at scale. Through international collaboration and shared evidence, the conference will examine the technologies, policies, partnerships and practical approaches needed to build confidence, overcome barriers and realise the full value of water reuse across communities, industry, agriculture and the environment.

Sub-themes:

Collaboration across disciplines, sectors and borders will be a strong focus of IWA Reuse 2027. We particularly encourage submissions that bring together technical, regulatory, economic, environmental and community perspectives; compare approaches across countries and regions; or demonstrate how shared evidence and partnerships can accelerate implementation.

1. Policy, Regulation, Governance & Leadership

Creating the frameworks and evidence needed to enable safe, sustainable and scalable water reuse.

- Policy, regulation and governance
- Regulatory and institutional barriers
- Guidelines, standards and permit systems
- Water reuse safety planning
- Risk frameworks and quantitative risk assessment
- Validation frameworks and requirements
- Evidence-based regulation and decision-making
- Water planning and allocation
- Cross-jurisdictional and regional approaches
- Comparing international regulatory approaches and lessons
- Competing demands and allocation of recycled water
- Political and government acceptance

2. Communities, Economics & Adoption

Building the confidence, investment and support needed to turn reuse opportunities into reality.

- Public confidence, social licence and trust
- Customer and community engagement
- Awareness, education, communication and behaviour
- Economics, pricing, financial viability and business cases
- International collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Cross-sector and multidisciplinary partnerships
- Valuing the broader environmental and resilience benefits
- Funding, financing and investment models
- Partnerships and new business models
- Equity and affordability
- Institutional and utility readiness
- Moving from pilot and demonstration to implementation at scale
- Lessons from successful, stalled and unsuccessful projects

3. Fit for Purpose – Community

Advancing safe, integrated and fit-for-purpose reuse within cities and communities.

- Direct potable reuse



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- Indirect potable reuse
- Non-potable urban reuse
- Dual Distribution and neighbourhood-scale reuse
- Landscape and public-space irrigation
- Stormwater harvesting and integrated water systems
- Fit-for-purpose water quality
- Integration with existing water and wastewater systems
- Operational experience and lessons from established schemes

4. Fit for Purpose – Agriculture and Industry

Expanding fit-for-purpose reuse across industry, agriculture and emerging water users.

- Agricultural reuse and irrigation
- Salinity, sodicity and long-term soil health
- Crop suitability, nutrients and food safety
- Farmer and end-user acceptance
- Industrial reuse
- Reclaimed water for industry use
- Mining and energy
- Data centres and emerging high-demand users
- Water quality requirements for different applications
- Regional and remote applications
- Environmental impacts of recycled water use

5. Treatment, Water Quality & Operations

Advancing treatment performance, safety, efficiency and reliable operation.

- Advanced treatment technologies
- Membrane processes
- Nature-based treatment
- Integrated and hybrid systems
- Treatment performance and optimisation
- Technical validation and monitoring
- Water quality and fit-for-purpose treatment
- Pathogens and microbial risks
- Antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic resistance genes
- PFAS and contaminants of emerging concern
- Process reliability and operational performance
- Automation, monitoring and control
- Digital water, data and artificial intelligence
- Asset, workforce and operational readiness

6. Circular Water Systems & Resource Recovery

Maximising the value of water and resources while supporting climate-resilient, circular systems.

- Circular water systems and closing water cycles
- Water-energy-carbon nexus
- Water-energy-food nexus
- Climate adaptation and drought resilience
- Energy efficiency and energy recovery
- Nutrient and materials recovery
- Residuals, concentrate and brine management
- Biosolids and sludge
- Life-cycle assessment



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- Greenhouse gas emissions and carbon implications
- Recycled water for hydrogen and emerging applications
- Environmental benefits and impacts
- Resource efficiency and system optimisation
- Low-emission, nature-based and regenerative approaches

Wildcard

Cross-disciplinary, emerging or future-focused topics that don't align with the themes above.

The topics listed are indicative only. Submissions addressing other aspects of water reuse are encouraged.

Presentation types

Submissions will be considered for a range of presentation formats to create a diverse and engaging technical program. Depending on the content, quality and suitability of the submission, abstracts may be selected for:

- Technical Presentation
- Poster Presentation
- Panel Discussion
- Workshop

The Scientific Committee may recommend an alternative presentation format based on the quality and suitability of the submission and the overall program.

Selected poster presenters may also be invited to deliver a short poster pitch within a relevant technical session, providing delegates with an introduction to their work and encouraging further discussion during dedicated networking time.

Selected papers will be considered for publication in the IWA Publishing journal 'Water Reuse' and IWA International Water Proceedings, as well as the AWA Water eJournal.

Who Should Submit?

IWA Reuse 2027 welcomes submissions from researchers, water utilities, industry, consultants, technology providers, regulators, governments, community practitioners, students and water professionals from around the world.

We welcome cutting-edge research alongside practical case studies, operational experience, policy and regulatory development, innovative technologies and honest lessons from implementation.

Submissions from all career stages, regions and disciplines relevant to water reuse are encouraged. We particularly welcome perspectives from developing and water-stressed regions and examples of international or multidisciplinary collaboration.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- Abstracts must be in English
- Abstracts must be submitted electronically via the submission portal
- Abstracts should be no more than 400 words
- Authors may submit more than one abstract
- Abstracts should clearly outline the background, methodology or approach, key findings (where applicable) and practical relevance
- Presenting authors will be required to register for the conference in advance

Selection Criteria

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Program Planning Committee and assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference theme and program
- Technical quality and originality
- Innovation and practical application
- Interest to an international audience



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- Clarity of the abstract

Presentations should focus on sharing evidence, knowledge and lessons learned rather than promoting commercial products or services.

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 30 November 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: 5 February 2027
- Presenter Registration Deadline: 31 March 2027
- Full paper for Technical Presentations: 15 November 2027
- Final Presentation Submission: 15 November 2027

For enquiries, please contact events@awa.asn.au