

MEDIA RELEASE

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Comment on the new Ministry

Department for Sustainable Population, Communities, Environment and Water

Tom Mollenkopf, Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association, said:

“Aligning the water and environment portfolios with sustainable population is a positive step towards securing Australia’s water supplies for the future. Recognition of the link between population growth and the demand for water is important if we are going to manage our water resources sustainably.

“However, it is also important that the impact of climate change on our water supplies is not forgotten and that we continue to see action to manage our supplies in light of increasing drought and changing rainfall patterns.

“Even though many urban areas have recently had good rainfall, we must remember that Australia is a country renowned for heavy rain followed by lengthy drought. Climate change is likely to exacerbate this pattern; the priority given to effective water management by policy makers must not be allowed to dissipate.

“The Australian water sector is well respected internationally. We are innovative and have the talent to overcome the sector’s challenges. We look forward to working with both the Minister for Sustainable Population, Communities, Environment and Water and the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency to build on the strength of the sector and to achieve sustainable water outcomes.”

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For further information, images or interview requests please contact Helen Ketton, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277

Notes to Editors

- 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 provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- 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.