

Media Release

ACT water experts most concerned about environment State of the Water Sector Report 2013 released

18 November 2013: The State of the Water Sector Report 2013, a joint report by the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Deloitte, has found that the two most important issues for ACT water professionals are managing catchments effectively and reducing the long term impact of the sector.

Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association, Jonathan McKeown, said the report was based on a survey of more than 1,500 members of Australia's water industry and continued to be one of the most comprehensive periodic reviews of attitudes across the Australian water sector.

"Today AWA met with the ACT Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Simon Corbell, to discuss the findings of our Report and highlight the key areas of concern for local water professionals.

"It is important for the Government to be aware that 54% of ACT respondents believe managing catchments effectively is the most important issue facing the territory, followed by 40% also seeing reducing the long-term environmental impact of the sector.

Deloitte Risk Services Partner and National Water Leader Matt Williams went on to say that those working in the ACT's water sector believed environmental watering regimes needed to be improved.

"More than 70% of respondents said more needed to be done with environmental watering, including more investment in research to understand the environment's water needs, particularly critical environmental assets, and improving the efficiency of consumptive uses such as repairing and upgrading irrigation systems.

"The experts in the ACT said the most cost effective way to provide additional water to the environment is through water buybacks and some infrastructure investment. This differs from the national sentiment, where 36% of respondents believed investing mostly in infrastructure with some water buybacks would be the most cost effective strategy."

To access the full *State of the Water Sector Report 2013*, visit deloitte.com.au or awa.asn.au



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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.

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