

## Media Release

# Desalination plants should be back-up only say NSW water sector professionals

## State of the Water Sector Report 2013 released

**20 November 2013:** The State of the Water Sector Report 2013, a joint Report by the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Deloitte, has found that NSW water professionals think desalination should be limited to being a back-up source of water supply only.

Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association, Jonathan McKeown, said the report was based on a survey of more than around 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 NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, to discuss the findings of our Report and highlight the key areas of concern for local water professionals.

"NSW water professionals are confident (84%) that its water supplies are secure, however consistent with national opinion, 57% of NSW respondents think desalination should be limited to being a back-up source of water supply only.

"While 32% of NSW respondents thought the state's investment in desalination was timely and provided adequate water security, 25% considered decisions to invest were timely but that plants are too large and costly. Nineteen percent (compared to 13% elsewhere in Australia) think the decisions to invest and build were ill-advised," said Mr McKeown.

Deloitte Risk Services Partner and National Water Leader Matt Williams, went on to say that NSW respondents believed dams were a better way to manage water security.

"In NSW, 82% of respondents either agree or strongly agree that dams are an effective way to manage water security, where only 64% of respondents in the rest of the country feel the same. However only, 26% of people surveyed in NSW agree that there is scope for more big dams in the southern states of Australia.

"This relatively low level of support for dams in the southern states may be a result of water supply being secure, or a 'not in my backyard' attitude."

To access the full *State of the Water Sector Report 2013*, visit [deloitte.com.au](http://deloitte.com.au) or [awa.asn.au](http://awa.asn.au)



Follow us – @DeloitteNewsAU

### For further information:

Amanda White  
Communications and Marketing Manager  
Australian Water Association  
M: 0401 806 277  
E: [awhite@awa.asn.au](mailto:awhite@awa.asn.au)

Simon Rushton  
National Manager Corporate Affairs & Communication  
Deloitte  
M: 0450 530 748  
E: [srushton@deloitte.com.au](mailto:srushton@deloitte.com.au)



**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 Deloitte**

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, a UK private company limited by guarantee, and its network of member firms, each of which is a legally separate and independent entity. Please see [www.deloitte.com/au/about](http://www.deloitte.com/au/about) for a detailed description of the legal structure of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited and its member firms.

Deloitte provides audit, tax, consulting, and financial advisory services to public and private clients spanning multiple industries. With a globally connected network of member firms in more than 150 countries, Deloitte brings world-class capabilities and high-quality service to clients, delivering the insights they need to address their most complex business challenges. Deloitte has in the region of 200,000 professionals, all committed to becoming the standard of excellence.

**About Deloitte Australia**

In Australia, the member firm is the Australian partnership of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. As one of Australia’s leading professional services firms, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and its affiliates provide audit, tax, consulting, and financial advisory services through approximately 6,000 people across the country. Focused on the creation of value and growth, and known as an employer of choice for innovative human resources programs, we are dedicated to helping our clients and our people excel. For more information, please visit Deloitte’s web site at [www.deloitte.com.au](http://www.deloitte.com.au).

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

© 2013 Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu