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Comment on the National Water Commission's report on Urban water in Australia: Future Directions

The peak body for water professionals has welcomed the release of the National Water Commission's report on Urban Future Directions in Australia. Tom Mollenkopf, CEO of the Australian Water Association, said:

'This report raises some important questions for the urban water sector in Australia, and importantly, puts water back on the national policy agenda. We cannot risk being complacent on water issues simply because our dams are filling in the Eastern states.

'We are fortunate in Australia to have an urban water sector that is the envy of many developed nations around the world. It is precisely because we are constantly innovating and seeking the next opportunity for improvement that we are so well regarded.'

The AWA has called for caution however. 'There have been extensive reforms and numerous reports over recent years – indeed the Productivity Commission will be releasing its report on urban water next week,' says Mollenkopf. 'Government must be strategic and targeted in its future reform efforts. The water sector and the nation risks suffering reform fatigue; we must focus on the few core areas that will deliver real value to the community, the economy and the environment.

'Moreover, we should be careful not to forget where the biggest water management issues remain unresolved – in the rural water sector and environmental flows.'

-ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors

- AWA is Australia's leading membership association for water professionals and organisations. Independent and not for profit AWA is the peak body supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices.