



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **What matters? Water matters. The problem in Canberra's lakes and waterways**

**30 May 2013**

The Australian Water Association (AWA) is organising a one day conference in Canberra highlighting the issues around local water quality in ACT's lakes, the latest catchment research and potential future management options to improve water quality.

AWA Chief Executive, Jonathan McKeown, said that the ACT is uniquely placed in its water quality challenges.

"As the largest urban development in the Murray-Darling Basin, the ACT has water demand, water quality and water management pressures directly associated with an increasing population and an expanding urban landscape.

"Water quality is a key to the sustainability and liveability of our cities and communities and is under increasing pressure Australia-wide from the impacts of climate change and urbanisation. The responsible management of our catchments is pivotal to this.

"This Conference offers an opportunity to hear about the latest research, learn about the latest advances in knowledge and understanding and how the issues are being dealt with in other parts of Australia.

"Topics include the role of water in the development of the ACT; why water quality in ACT lakes is declining so rapidly and the major causes of blue-green algae; the important role integrated catchment management and community catchment groups can play; and how water sensitive urban design can be one of the keys to improving our lakes and Canberra's liveability", said Mr McKeown.

This year's Water Matters 2013 Conference will be held at CSIRO's Discovery Centre on Wednesday, 5 June and presents invited talks from government policy makers, researchers and university scientists, and experienced industry consultants. The presentations will be followed by an interactive panel discussion exploring the way forward for management of water quality and the ACT's water resources, lakes and waterways.

For more information or to register please visit our website [www.awa.asn.au/WaterMatters](http://www.awa.asn.au/WaterMatters)

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#### **Editors Note:**

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.

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