

MEDIA RELEASE

Will Canberra maintain positive water outlook in Australian Water Survey?

28 July 2016: How much do you know about your water supply? The Australian Water Association and Arup have partnered for a second year to conduct the [Australian Water Survey](#) to better understand community concerns regarding water.

As the largest inland city in Australia, Canberra has a unique perspective on water that we would like to better understand. Canberra held the most positive attitudes to water out of all the States and Territories in the 2015 Australian Water Survey – likely influenced by recent water supply improvement works in the ACT.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said: “Consumers right across Australia are concerned about water shortages, but last year’s survey showed us that concern was lower in the ACT than in the other jurisdictions (77% v 72% concerned or very concerned).

“Interestingly, the majority of those in the ACT were more supportive of the work of authorities, with far more believing they are taking firm action to make sure we have enough water in the future. This belief in the authorities may be the reason that a higher majority of Canberrans are confident there will be enough water in the future, although this is still only 39%.

“It will be interesting to see what this year’s survey tells us about attitudes of Canberrans. Last year three quarters of respondents said they were willing to spend money to make their homes more water efficient, and 70% said they wanted to monitor water consumption in real time.”

With all States and Territories recording above-average June rainfalls and Canberra water storage currently sitting at 85.7% (up from 79.7% for the same time last year) will we see a more positive outlook from Canberra and a more relaxed approach to the way that they use and monitor household water?

Mr McKeown said community participation in the survey was crucial to adequately reflect community issues in the report.

Key takeaways from 2015:

- 70% of Canberra’s residents said they would like to monitor their water consumption in real time and
- 75% were willing to spend money to make their homes more efficient.
- 52% believed authorities were taking firm action to ensure future water supplies (compared to national average of 34%)

The [Australian Water Survey](#) opened on 18 June 2016 and closes 12 August 2016.

The results will be revealed in October at the IWA World Water Congress in Brisbane.

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Media enquiries:

Ashleigh James

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 Arup

Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world's most prominent projects in the built environment and across industry. From 90 offices in 38 countries our 11,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion.

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