

# AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Australian Water Association calls for a new national approach to water**

**10 November 2017**

The Australian Water Association has written to the Productivity Commission following the publication of its Draft Report on water reform and has called for a major shakeup of the institutional architecture of the rural and urban water sectors.

"The water industry is calling for more national leadership to develop a National Water Plan to replace what has been known as the National Water Initiative. How Australia manages the competing demands for water resources will directly shape the level of economic growth and productivity needed to maintain our national wealth and environmental sustainability," Jonathan McKeown, Chief Executive of the Australian Water Association said.

"A National Water Plan needs to be given the highest priority and the industry is calling for such a plan to be negotiated with all the States and Territories, and approved by the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG). The water industry has also called for the establishment of a new independent National Water Authority that is properly funded to implement the National Water Plan without fear or interference from short term politics."

"The urban water sector is keen to progress reform that was commenced but not concluded over the past decade. Our urban population is growing faster than ever before and we need reform to provide the most cost-effective water services. The urban water sector requires more independent economic regulation, more competitive neutrality in delivering our water services, and a more vigorous approach to integrated water cycle management across our planning and development processes."

The Australian Water Association has proposed that a National Water Authority needs to be given the teeth and resources to implement the agreed national water plan, and is calling for a national water plan that includes three national frameworks for water trading, water resource planning, and urban water planning.

The Association hopes its submission will help shift some outdated thinking about how the Commonwealth currently facilitates water management with the States/Territories and how the Australian water sector needs to move beyond the Murray-Darling Basin Plan to provide national coordination of our water resources across the whole continent.

To view the full submission from the Australian Water Association, [click here](#).

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**About the Australian Water Association**

With a membership of over 5,000 individual and corporate members, the Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network promoting sustainable water management and connecting members through three core principles of information, networking and recognition.

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