

# AUSTRALIAN<sup>®</sup> WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

## Australian Water Association welcomes \$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility

4 May 2016

The Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown has welcomed the announcement of a \$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility in the 2016–17 Budget.

Designed to support major water infrastructure projects over the next 10 years and due to begin in July, the funding will help get high priority projects up and running through providing concessional loans to the States and Territories.

“Water is our most precious resource and a key economic driver,” Mr McKeown said.

“These measures will bring benefits to the water sector and the Australian economy as a whole. The Australian Water Association welcomes the water infrastructure funding, particularly as it encourages more public and private sector partnerships.”

The National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility provides a financial incentive to states to invest in, or to cultivate partnerships with the private sector, to construct the vital water infrastructure required to support the growth of our regional economies and our nation as a whole.

“The announcement also shows a strong connection with what the Association called for in October 2015 at the National Water Policy Summit, where we recommended a national water fund to incentivise the delivery of a National Water Vision focused on customer needs that delivers water quality, water security, cost-reflective water pricing, and a competition framework to increase competition and support private sector involvement. The Association also welcomes the government’s call for the water projects to be both financially and environmentally sustainable.”

The National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility will stimulate and accelerate investment in major water infrastructure, such as dams, pipelines and managed aquifer recharge projects.

“These projects are essential to many industries and the National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility will help ensure the long term sustainability of such projects. At this year’s Water Leaders Forum being held at Ozwater’16 next week in Melbourne, we will be discussing the need to upgrade or replace aging infrastructure, the requirement for more investment and alternative financing models,” Mr McKeown said.

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To arrange an interview with Jonathan McKeown, contact Australian Water Association Communications Manager Ashleigh James 0488 160 277.

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[Ozwater](#) is the southern hemisphere's largest annual gathering of water professionals. More than 3000 delegates will attend this year's event, held in Melbourne from May 10–12, to hear from more than 200 expert speakers from Australia and abroad. The convention's theme is *Water: For Liveable Communities and Sustainable Industries*.

*The Australian Water Association is an independent, not-for-profit association for water professionals and organisations, providing leadership in the water sector through collaboration, advocacy and professional development. As Australia's peak water industry body, the Australian Water Association has the largest broadly based membership, with approximately 700 corporate members and 5,000 individual members representing the diversity and breadth of the Australian water industry.*