

# AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

22 March 2017

### **Australian Water Association facilitates Australian water technology to help needy communities in Vietnam**

In recognition of World Water Day today, the Australian Water Association (the Association) is pleased to announce that SkyJuice Foundation Inc. (SkyJuice) has been selected to deliver a pilot project to provide much needed drinking water for disadvantaged communities in Vietnam.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said the project has the potential to greatly enhance safe drinking water outcomes in Vietnam by demonstrating advanced, fit for use, and affordable Australian technology.

“The Association is keen to facilitate Australian innovation in supplying safe drinking water in the fast emerging economy of Vietnam,” Mr McKeown said.

“Australia has a great deal to offer the international water sector, not only with increasing access to safe, efficient and reliable water supplies but also the societal and economic benefits that stem from this, such as the empowerment of women and growth of enterprises that rely on water.”

The pilot project is being undertaken in partnership with the Vietnam Government and is being run in a rural village of Vietnam in Son La Province. It is being funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) who have engaged the Association to facilitate the transfer of Australian water innovations to Vietnam.

SkyJuice Chairman Rhett Butler, AM said: “This project will be a tremendous catalyst to encourage individuals and organisations to embrace innovative technology solutions to solve pressing global issues like drinking water and sanitation.”

The pilot project involves SkyJuice implementing their membrane water treatment technology with the aim to build capacity of rural water agencies in Vietnam to operate advanced drinking technology and deliver safe drinking water to their communities.

Outcomes from the pilot project will inform the Vietnam and Australian Governments on the suitability for nationally upscaling treatment technology in areas of most need.

#### **About the project:**

The project involves:

- A **Safe Water Kiosk** to supply drinking water to 3000 people
- A **SkyTower** at a local school to serve safe water to 1000 children
- **Squirt** personal household units providing safe water units for 10-50 people

All three membrane drinking water systems will be located in Chieng Mai Commune, a province of Son La, Vietnam. The local water authority Provincial Centre for Rural Water

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Supply and Sanitation, the Son La Peoples Committee, and the Vietnam Women's Union will actively participate in the installation, operation and evaluation of the pilot project.

### **ENDS**

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### **About the Australian Water Association**

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.

[www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)

### **About SkyJuice Foundation Inc.**

SkyJuice Foundation Inc. is an Australian not-for-profit organisation which seeks to partner and provide low cost, sustainable water treatment solutions for humanitarian programs in developing nations. They provide access to water filtration units utilising proven and validated "world best" water filtration membrane technology to bring safe, clean water to those most in need. It has over 6000 installations in 58 Countries

[www.skyjuice.org.au/](http://www.skyjuice.org.au/)