

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Shorter wet season highlights NT water security requirements

**28 July 2016:** How much do we know about our 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 and trends in regarding water.

A heavy annual wet season contributes significantly to the Northern Territory's drinking water, with an impressive 85% of Darwin's urban drinking water coming from just one dam.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said: "In the 2015 Australian Water Consumer Survey, NT concerns about water were strongly related to industry usage – in particular unconventional gas and mining and extractive industries – as well as the long term future supply of water.

"Last year, only 18% believed authorities were taking firm action to make sure there is enough water in the longer term (compared to 34% nationally). Only 18% felt confident there will be enough water for the future, which is more pessimistic than that national average of 30%."

The Northern Territory Government revealed in June 2016 that 23% of Darwin's rural bores were at risk as a result of a shorter than average wet season last year. While there are hopes for an early onset wet season this year, will there be a demand from consumers for better water security options to address future dips in rainfall?

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

Key takeaways from 2015:

- 18% of residents were confident there will be enough water for the future (compared to the national average of 30%)
- 72% were concerned or very concerned about the impacts of unconventional gas with 70% concerned or very concerned about the impacts of mining and extractive industries
- 54% of NT residents believed the price of water was much too high or a little high (above national average of 38%)

In 2015, there was strong support for alternative water sources across the country, with 90% agreeing water recycling was a sustainable non-drinking source and 82% supporting stormwater re-use. Alternative water sources were widely accepted for drinking, led by desalinated water (82% agreeing or strongly agreeing), recycled water (69%) and stormwater (56%).

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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**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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