

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Queenslanders have good water-saving habits, but think they pay too much for it**

**12 October 2016**

The Australian Water Association and Arup have just released the Australian Water Outlook – the results of the Australian Water Survey which investigates attitudes to water issues among the Australian water industry and the wider community.

The survey attracted more than 2500 responses from the Australian community and the water sector, and the results show that Queenslanders think they pay too much for their water.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said: “The majority of Queensland industry respondents felt the price for water was too high, more so than any other State. This is a similar result to last year’s survey, when Queenslanders again thought they paid too much for water.”

Queensland industry respondents considered urban water prices as much too high (11%) or a little too high (27%) compared to the national averages of (7% and 19%).

Queensland community respondents rated their efforts to save water as excellent and said saving water was a top priority, the highest out of any State and Territory.

The Outlook also revealed that Queenslanders had low confidence in water security. Only 29% of Queensland respondents were very or somewhat confident that Australia has sufficient water security (36% nationally) and 68% were ‘not very/not at all’ confident compared to 62% nationally.

Arup’s Australasian Water Leader Daniel Lambert said it wasn’t surprising that Queensland had low levels of confidence in water security.

“With the wet season in the northern parts of the State and a long running drought in Queensland’s agricultural areas, residents know full well that rain doesn’t necessarily equal water security,” Mr Lambert said.

Mr Lambert said the survey results provide insight into focus areas that the water industry and regulators could use to enhance the customer service, delivery and protection of water resources in each State and Territory.

“Water is a major driver of our nation’s life and prosperity. A national conversation needs to be had around water security, and we hope the Australian Water Outlook will help call attention to this conversation,” Mr McKeown continued.

The Australian Water Outlook will be used to inform the Association’s Water Security Scorecard due for release in May at Ozwater’17 which will shine a light on water issues in each jurisdiction.

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## **ENDS**

**The Australian Water Outlook can be found [here](#).**

To arrange an interview with Jonathan McKeown or Daniel Lambert, contact Ashleigh James on 0488 160 277.

### **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 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. We offer a broad range of professional services that combine to make a real difference to our clients and the communities in which we work. We are truly global. From 90 offices in 35 countries our 13,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion. Founded in 1946 with an enduring set of values, our unique trust ownership fosters a distinctive culture and an intellectual independence that encourages collaborative working. This is reflected in everything we do, allowing us to develop meaningful ideas, help shape agendas and deliver results that frequently surpass the expectations of our clients. The people at Arup are driven to find a better way and to deliver better solutions for our clients.

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