

MEDIA RELEASE

Tasmanians have low confidence in water security and low confidence in alternative sources of water

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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 overall make it clear Australians have major concerns about water shortages and water security.

The Australian Water Association CEO, Jonathan McKeown said: “the Australian Water Outlook has revealed that Tasmanian residents have the lowest confidence in alternative sources of water for drinking and non-drinking purposes out of all Australian States and Territories. Concern for water shortages has also declined since last year in each State except Tasmania.”

Drought, climate change and intensive agriculture were major concerns for the Tasmanian industry and community respondents, and the community was also worried about floods (the most out of any State).

Tasmania has very low confidence in water security, the lowest of any State with 0% completely confident and 37% mostly confident. Sixty-four per cent of industry respondents described Tasmanian rural water quality as low and 0% describe it as high quality.

“The years of extreme climate variability in Tasmania has put immense pressure on both the community and industry to address water security – this hasn’t been completely resolved yet, but we do see government action on water security,” Mr McKeown continued.

Arup’s Australasian Water Leader Daniel 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.

“While Tasmanians had lower levels of confidence in alternative water sources, this is the time for the State to assess what their long term requirements are and how to best meet these demands,” Mr Lambert said.

“Water is a major driver of our nation’s life and prosperity, and the Australian community and its leaders can’t afford to be complacent about water security for urban, regional, rural or remote communities. A national discussion needs to be had around water security, and we hope the Australian Water Outlook will help call attention to this conversation,” Mr McKeown continued.

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“Australia’s future prosperity is directly linked to how we manage water and how we secure water supplies to meet the needs of our growing population, diversified industries, and the environment.”

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

To arrange an interview with Jonathan McKeown or Daniel Lambert contact Ashleigh James 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

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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