

AUSTRALIAN[®] WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Water Security for all Australians **Australian Water Association launches new advocacy platform**

Australian Water Association today released the Association's new advocacy platform - *Water Security for all Australians*.

"During the election campaign, the Association analysed the major political parties' water policies," Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said.

"All political parties acknowledged the importance of water security to Australia. However, the Association does not have confidence that any of the parties are adequately addressing the challenges of securing Australia's future water requirements.

"We are disappointed the major parties have missed an opportunity to make water a bigger priority in this election. Australia's future prosperity is directly linked to how we manage water and how we secure sufficient water to meet the needs of our growing population, diversified industries, and the environment - all against a backdrop of climate change. "

The major political parties' water policies are available [here](#).

"Today the Association is releasing *Water Security for all Australians* – a multi-faceted advocacy initiative designed to start a debate about how our community can gain confidence that our water requirements are secure," Mr McKeown continued.

"In the *Water Security for all Australian's* discussion paper the Association defines what water security encompasses, we take stock of the great work that has been done and is currently being done around the country to secure water in Australia, and finally we outline the parties' water policies to uncover where there may be gaps.

"More policy focus is needed on how the next Commonwealth Government will:

- lead a national conversation with the community that raises the importance of water and engages them in a mature debate about the role we all play in securing our water future
- exercise much needed leadership across all levels of Government to raise and resolve water issues of national importance.
- implement water policy more holistically with full regard for Australia's economic development, agriculture, mining, industry, the environment, cities and regional, rural and remote communities.

"To raise the profile of this issue, over the next year, the Association will develop a *Water Security for All Australians* scorecard. The scorecard will illustrate the level of water security available and compare that with community expectations."

To read the full discussion paper [click here](#).

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

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.