

# AUSTRALIAN<sup>®</sup> WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **ACT Water Matters Conference looks at the region's water sustainability**

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown will next week join Canberra's water sector leaders at the annual ACT Water Matters Conference to discuss the water needs and issues of Canberra in 2050 and beyond.

"The Water Matters Conference will be looking forward to the region's landscape in 35 years' time and how the industry will meet future demands and challenges. Water Matters provides a platform for the region's water industry to have a robust conversation on these issues," Mr McKeown said.

Mr McKeown said the Water Matters conference can serve as the catalyst for developing strategies for Government, private enterprise and the community to work together to build a sustainable water future.

"Canberra is uniquely placed with its urban management issues; as the largest urban development in the Murray-Darling Basin, Canberra has water demand, water quality and water management pressures directly associated with an increasing population and an expanding urban landscape. These pressures will lead to increasing demands to maintain water quality, unless counter measures are taken and incorporated into strategic forward planning.

"In the face of increasing population pressure, expanding suburbs and higher density development, it is incumbent upon governments and local communities to begin to develop their own resilience when it comes to the planning and design of urban water and its management."

Water Matters will look at the Canberra landscape, the role of water in this landscape and how that impacts on catchments and infrastructure supply.

The Conference will conclude with an interactive panel session involving Greens MLA Shane Rattenbury, Liberal MLA Nicole Lawder, and Labor MLA Jayson Hinder, as well as academics and developers. The discussion will focus on how all things water could be better incorporated into long-term planning of the Territory and initiatives that would realise improved investment strategies to meet the broad spectrum of future water demands.

The full list of speakers, with over 20 individuals from the private and public sector can be found through the [ACT Water Matters program](#).

A limited number of tickets are still available through [www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au) or via email [membership@awa.asn.au](mailto:membership@awa.asn.au)

**ENDS**

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To arrange an interview with Jonathan McKeown or an ACT Water Matters presenter, 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.*