

AUSTRALIAN[®] WATER

ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Water security for Victorians

The Australian Water Association (the Association) was honored to host around 200 people to the launch of the Victorian Government's *Water for Victoria Plan* yesterday, and Association CEO Jonathan McKeown along with Association Victorian Branch President David Kirby has praised the four year funding commitment to water security.

"The Plan demonstrates the importance of inclusive and robust community engagement in water planning in particular, and the Association welcomes the new framework that recognises indigenous rights in water planning and management," Mr McKeown said.

"It is also good to see the focus on improving pricing mechanisms for recycled water as fit for purpose in agricultural, urban and recreational management, as recycled water stood out as the key source of water that Australians have confidence in for drinking and non-drinking purposes in the recently released [2016 Australian Water Outlook](#).

"The Australian Water Association supports the \$537 million commitment to water security in Victoria, including the reinvigorated water saving campaign and the recognition of the benefits to be derived from integrated catchment management.

"As Victoria's population and demands on water sources continues to grow together with the challenges of managing climate variability, the issue of providing water security will remain a priority.

"The importance of water supply augmentation for rural economic development, maturity of the water grid and expansion including connection to a non-rainfall dependent source are all essential to longer term water security.

"The Association welcomes the Victorian Government's *Water for Victoria Plan* as it addresses the Australian Water Association's call for greater action to provide water security for all Australians.

"The Victorian Plan is a credible strategy to protect the four essential pillars of water security that have been identified by the Association. These four essential pillars of water security are:

- Access to safe affordable drinking water for all
- Water to support agriculture and industry
- Water management liveable communities
- Water for the environment.

"Minister Neville is to be congratulated on the Plan. The Association looks forward to working with the Victorian Government to implementing the Plan."

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The [2016 Australian Water Outlook](#) was released on 12 October and shows that the Australian community has very low confidence that Australia has enough water security to meet its needs: Only 4% of industry and 3% of community respondents were completely confident that Australia currently has sufficient water security to meet social, environmental and economic needs into the future, with more than half of both groups saying they were not confident.

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For more information, 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.

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