



29 November 2010

### **AWA comment on the NWC position statement on recycled water**

The Australian Water Association (AWA) joined the National Water Commission today in calling for greater use of recycled water as part of Australia's urban water supplies.

Tom Mollenkopf, CEO of AWA, said, "Recycled water offers an effective and viable additional supply option to meet Australia's water needs. Dams, desalination and sustainable water management practices are all important to securing our water supplies but recycled water should also be seriously considered by governments as a water source for the future."

Lack of public understanding is a barrier to the acceptance of recycling water. According to AWA's research fewer than one in five Australians believe that they are very informed about treated recycled water.

Water sector professionals show a high degree of confidence in recycling technology and management practices: in another recent AWA survey water managers and practitioners listed recycling as one of the preferred solutions to Australia's water requirements.

Tom Mollenkopf continued, "It is the responsibility of both governments and the water sector to ensure communities have sufficient information to make an informed decision about recycled water. In many cases recycled water, including for drinking purposes, offers a cheaper and more environmentally sustainable option and meets strict health requirements."

**-ENDS-**

For further information, images or interview requests please contact Helen Ketton, AWA Communications Manager, on 02 9467 8416 / 0401 806 277

## **Notes to Editors**

- The Australian Water Association (AWA) is Australia's leading water sector body, representing over 10,000 water professionals around the country and across all water disciplines.
- AWA provides leadership in the water sector on a wide range of issues, including skills shortages, climate change and water reuse and recycling.
- AWA works to enhance the skills and knowledge of water professionals and promote and disseminate best practice through an extensive range of technical seminars, courses and events.