



MEDIA RELEASE

Australia helps ease global water woes

6 JULY 2011

Although the sense of urgency that drove Australia's water policy and practices is at risk of waning at home, this is far from true globally.

Several thousand participants at Singapore International Water Week are testament to the fact that the world's water woes are still uppermost in the minds of researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

Today, Australian Water Association Chief Executive, Tom Mollenkopf will chair the Australian Business Forum in Singapore as part of Singapore International Water Week. Mr Mollenkopf will facilitate global water experts in discussing the changing needs in an ever transforming climate, along with the business and economic perspectives of the emerging challenges and issues in the Australia water sector.

Mr Mollenkopf said that he will assist the global audience to look to address their own social, environmental and economic security challenges related to water shortages.

"This is an opportunity for Australian experts to share challenges, opportunities and responses to major water issues. This year there is a large Australian delegation at the event and these delegates come from all parts of the sector: research, government, utilities, consulting and advisory, and technology.

"We need to maintain both our local and global focuses if we are to contribute to global solutions and maintain our capability to deliver solutions for our continuing water needs at home. Global water issues, such as water scarcity, maintaining water quality, energy and water nexus, and developing nation's water and sanitation cannot be combated without supporting global alliances.

"Australia's water competence is advanced by supporting ongoing research, ensuring we maintain and grow our expertise and continue to provide opportunities to the Australian water sector. The Australian Water Association fulfils this role by working with industry and the Australian Government." said Mr Mollenkopf.

The theme for this year's Singapore International Water Week is 'Sustainable Water Solutions for a Changing Urban Environment', reinforcing the Week as a platform for solutions to address the latest and most pertinent water issues amidst a rapidly changing world.

Australia's National Water Week, managed by the Australian Water Association, will be held 16-22 October. The national week is important in raising community awareness about both local and global issues. More information can be found at www.nationalwaterweek.org.au

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



Notes to editors:

- Australian Water Association (AWA) Chief Executive, Mr Tom Mollenkopf, is available for interviews.
- 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.