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TRUSTED LEADERSHIP IN
SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

Position statement

Desalination

29 January 2010

Yesterday the NSW Premier Kristina Keneally switched on Sydney's wind powered desalination plant. The plant will provide water to meet up to 15 per cent of Sydney's water needs and is part of the NSW Government's Metropolitan Water Plan.

AWA believes it is crucial that governments plan continuously to ensure water security decades into the future, particularly in light of population growth and the impacts of climate change. Desalination is one option to manage water supplies but it not the only option available to governments.

The development of more water efficient urban design planning, water efficient appliances in homes and in industry, rainwater tanks and programs to reduce water demand are all alternative options. There is also the use of non-traditional supplies such as stormwater and recycling. In fact, diversifying the water supply to include a number of different options will help to reduce the risk of water scarcity.

But whilst it is not a panacea, desalination of seawater is an important option also. At a time when rainfall is becoming less reliable and more variable, an investment in a climate independent source of drinking water for our major cities is a prudent and reasonable part of the supply menu. Desalination is not necessarily the answer, but it is part of the answer.

[For further information please contact:](#)

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