



## Water Industry Skills Taskforce CHARTER

### **BACKGROUND**

In common with many other industries, the water industry has been concerned for many years regarding skills issues, including both existing and emerging skills shortages. In March 2008 a National Water Industry Skills Forum was convened jointly by the National Water Commission (NWC), Australian Water Association (AWA) and Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) The Forum identified a number of priority areas for action and supported the establishment of a Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST).

The WIST was established in late 2008 and is hosted by AWA. In its first four years, it has, amongst other things, overseen the development of a Water Industry Skills Strategy and subsequently a Business (Action) Plan.

In 2012, Taskforce members undertook a review of WIST in light of developments within the sector. It was acknowledged that a number of key skills initiatives had been completed by WIST and that the industry's operating environment had seen fundamental change. Skills issues however, remain fundamental to a sound, secure and efficient industry. The members therefore resolved to support the continuation of the WIST with a revised charter. The following has been adopted by the WIST members.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The role of the taskforce is to promote and oversee a nationally coordinated effort to address the skills and workforce development needs of the water sector.

The responsibilities of the Taskforce are to:

1. Provide a forum for discussion and promotion of the understanding of the sector's skills issues between key stakeholders
2. Identify skills needs of the sector and articulate strategic responses
3. Promote a consistent and coordinated response to skills needs among water sector constituents
4. Provide guidance to industry bodies (AWA, WSAA, IAL etc) and governments on priority areas for attention
5. Advocate for policy responses, projects or initiatives including championing these responses and offering advice or support and funding.



## **GOVERNANCE**

The Taskforce will be an advisory and advocacy body. It will be hosted by AWA who will provide secretariat support.

The Taskforce is expected to meet between two and four times a year on a needs basis. Meetings will be chaired by the AWA. Travel costs will be at the Taskforce member's expense with administrative costs covered by AWA.

## **TASKFORCE MEMBERSHIP**

The Taskforce will ideally comprise CEO- level representation from:

- The Australian Water Association (AWA)
- The Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA)
- The National Water Commission (NWC)
- An urban water utility
- A consulting engineer organisation
- An Infrastructure Construction organisation
- The vocational sector
- The university sector
- Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL)
- Government Skills Australia (GSA)

It is intended that Taskforce members will be influential and respected industry leaders with a commitment to seeing that outcomes are delivered for the benefit of the water industry. Other members may be co-opted to serve on the Taskforce.

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Chairperson, WIST

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