

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australians not confident about water security & worried about water shortages

**9 August 2016:** The Australian Water Association and Arup are conducting the Australian Water Survey to understand community concerns and trends regarding water.

With more than 1500 responses so far, it's clear the community and the water industry have major concerns about water shortages and water security.

Australian Water Association CEO Jonathan McKeown said that these initial responses are clearly indicating that the community are greatly concerned about Australia's future water security.

"We've seen that over 60% of community respondents so far are not confident/not very confident that Australia currently has sufficient water security to meet all social, environmental and economic needs.

"And furthermore two thirds of community respondents say they are extremely concerned/very concerned about water shortages in Australia.

"This is the second year in a row we have seen a high level of concern about water security and significant work is required to engage the community on the best ways to secure our future water needs. There is a real need for industry, community and governments to work together and develop long term sustainable solutions.

"The survey is open for one more week and it provides an opportunity for everyone to have their views heard and contribute to this important conversation. In particular the Australian Water Association would like to hear from people in the smaller states and territories about the unique challenges they face and their views on long term water security.

"These results will be used to help drive the water policy we need in Australia and ensure long term water planning is done with the community's best interests in mind."

In 2015, the survey results showed:

- 77% were concerned or very concerned about water shortage in Australia.
- Only 31% of people thought there'd be enough water in the future.
- Only 34% thought the authorities were taking firm action on longer term water availability.
- The top three perceived impacts on water were drought, climate change and population growth.
- 90% agreed water recycling was a sustainable non-drinking source.
- Alternative water sources were widely accepted for drinking: desalinated water (82%), recycled water (69%).

The [Australian Water Survey](#) opened on 18 June 2016 and closes 12 August 2016.

The survey results will be released in October at the IWA World Water Congress in Brisbane.

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**About the Australian Water Association**

The Australian Water Association is Australia's leading membership association for water professionals and organisations. AWA is independent and not for profit. It plays an essential role in supporting the Australian water sector in the delivery of effective and sustainable water management practices. Our mission is to foster knowledge, understanding and advancement in sustainable water management – its science, practice and policy – through advocacy, collaboration and professional development.

We operate across all Australian States and Territories through an active branch network as well as maintaining extensive international links, including with the International Water Association. AWA's provides a comprehensive program of conferences, workshops, publications, industry programs, training courses, networking and B2B opportunities. AWA's Annual Conference and Exhibition is Australia's largest water industry event.

**About Arup**

Arup is the creative force at the heart of many of the world's most prominent projects in the built environment and across industry. From 90 offices in 35 countries our 13,000 planners, designers, engineers and consultants deliver innovative projects across the world with creativity and passion.

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