

NSW Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements

Matthew Renshaw | Stantec

I have been a long-standing member of the AWA for over 20 years. I am passionate about the Australian water sector and am hugely committed to our wonderful industry. I have previously held roles on our NSW YWP & Branch committees and am now seeking re-election to the Branch. Over the last 2 years I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play my part in AWA's aspirations to share information and knowledge, connect members with industry and stakeholders, and to inspire positive change for all our current and potential members. AWA has a key role in supporting and building a water sector recognised for its diversity, inclusion, and equality. With this and a background in regional water, my recent efforts have largely been in support of a regional water sub-committee where initiatives have delivered opportunities for regional members to connect and share knowledge. Specifically, efforts have seen the formation of our inaugural Regional Water Champs Hack alongside the continued promotion and establishment of regional "hubs" across NSW. Continuing to volunteer and to play my part in the development and delivery of AWA's highly valued member engagement program is something which I find tremendously enjoyable. Over the coming period, the association will continue to be an important voice and platform for the knowledge and experience of water professionals to inform the decisions and policy of government. I hope to contribute to the development of a Water forum with NSW Ministers to encourage bipartisan collaboration around solutions and common goals. Otherwise, my AWA advocacy continues through my employer's Corporate Principal Member sponsorship and supporting colleagues through their involvement in AWA committees, specialist networks and events. My vision for the committee is to continue to support both individual and corporate member retention and growth through vibrant and relevant engagement.

Matthew Schnelle | Sydney Water

Matt Schnelle I'm young engineer with a passion for people and a love of my career with purpose in the water industry. I'm values-driven, motivated, and have demonstrated keen involvement with the Australian Water Association. I'm currently chair of AWA's Australia/NZ Young Water Professionals Conference team and a former chair of NSW Young Water Professionals. I grew up in regional NSW and have worked at both regional and metropolitan utilities. I work as a water-operations engineer in Sydney Water's incident response team and am completing my Masters in Applied Policy. I bring a practical lens to problem solving, understanding risk and managing stakeholders. I'm keenly aware how inequity of access can impact opportunity and influence experiences and am passionate about enabling diverse voices inside the room.

Lisa Andersons | NSW Department of Planning and Environment

I am a regionally based water professional living on the beautiful lands of the Biripi people in the Manning Valley, NSW. I specialise in drinking water quality management and stakeholder engagement. My career in the water industry so far has included roles within local and state government organisations. I have been lucky enough to be a member of the AWA NSW Branch Committee for the last two years. I am renominating as I would love to continue to work with regional water champions to build connections with each other and our metro colleagues to inspire solutions to water issues. I am also keen to continue learning from and highlighting the enormous amount of water knowledge of First Nations Australians. I would be honoured to continue to represent NSW on this committee.

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Catherine Port | Veolia Australia and New Zealand

I am passionate about water and the difference the water industry makes to communities. A strong water sector is important to ensure Australia can overcome current and future challenges. I have been involved in AWA activities my whole career. I have seen the difference that AWA makes to the development of younger professionals and the industry as a whole. I am keen to contribute to the AWA through the NSW Committee to further support, enable and promote collaboration and development of the water industry. I have over 20 years' experience in the water industry, across public and private sectors. From leading Sydney's response to the recent drought, developing projects for large regional dams, to leading business transformation, I have experience in tackling a range of the difficult challenges of our industry. I would bring my energy, experience and collaborative style to plan and deliver initiatives for the NSW Committee.

Bradley Yager | Schneider Electric

Throughout my 23 years of Water Industry experience, I have always been passionate about innovation. I have learnt that impactful innovation only comes through collaboration and engaging diverse thought. My proudest professional achievements have been seeing young engineers I have mentored achieve. Although my background has been in telemetry and automation systems, I have used that background to explore future solutions across many areas and have been able to also work on innovations in other industries. Working for Schneider Electric, one of the world's most sustainable companies, I am also passionate about driving sustainable efficiency across the complete water cycle. I would bring enthusiasm, new ideas, and a passion for innovation to the committee.

Angus Wilkie | Aurecon

I am an experienced wastewater engineer, having worked across planning, design, commissioning and construction both in Australia and overseas. Most recently, I have led planning and design projects in the North West growth region of Sydney. I love to work on projects, and with teams, that best utilise the water industry's powerful platform to create change, facilitating environmental and social benefits. Better use of space. Better outcomes for waterways. The AWA connects water professionals beyond our day to day budgets and deadlines. I believe that the vast majority of water professionals are here because they see the work of our industry as more than just a job – and the AWA runs events that reminds us of that. My vision for the AWA is to drive its highest possible profile, to truly reflect its status as the peak professional body of this essential industry – networking knowledge across disciplines, cities and regions.

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Wayne R Beatty | Orange City Council

I graduated from Sydney University as a Civil Engineer in 1982 and currently hold the position of Water and Sewer Manager (Strategic) with Orange City Council. I have a broad range of experience in the Local Government Water Industry, having delivered multiple infrastructure projects as well as operating and maintaining water supply and sewerage systems over the last 30 years. I have been an Executive Committee Member of the NSW Water Directorate for more than 15 years and am the current Chair. As Chair of the Water Directorate, I lead discussions on a range of issues affecting the water industry in regional NSW and am conversant with both technical and policy issues affecting the industry both regionally and statewide. I am a current member of the Australian Water Association (AWA) NSW Branch Committee. I am a strong advocate for the regional water sector in NSW and recognise the need to collaborate across the water sector through partnerships with regulators, professional organisations such as the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA), Australian Water Association (AWA), the NSW Water Directorate and the private sector. I have a strong passion for the Water Industry in Regional NSW and am always keen to promote the excellent service delivery that water utilities in regional NSW provides to their customers. Membership of the AWA NSW Branch Committee will enable me to continue to advocate for the Water Industry in Regional NSW.

Emily Cotterill | The Environmental Factor

A 2022 AWA Regional Water Champion, Emily is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) with extensive experience in environmental project management, collaboration and oversight. As founding Director of The Environmental Factor, Emily's experience includes working with a range of utilities to deliver innovative water projects across NSW, collaborating with both government and NGOs to design projects that sustain regional communities, and protect Water Quality Objectives, thereby protecting aquatic ecosystems and downstream water quality. Emily has undertaken environmental impact assessments and prepared comprehensive environmental management plans for both public and private industry, undertaken extensive community, agency and stakeholder consultation processes, and provided environmental compliance guidance on multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects. Emily is passionate about water, and believes in the integrity of delivering best-practice water projects in even the remotest of areas. Emily loves the connection between water and people, and in her work is a strong advocate of healthy waterways, ecology, and communities.

Sascha Moege | NSW Department of Planning and Environment

I have been involved in policy design and advocacy in the areas of urban water management, water resource management and local government, especially the in the regulation of, and support for, regional water utilities. I would like to continue to contribute to the AWA on the NSW Branch Committee and help promote well informed, evidence based and ethical decision making and policy design, showcase current and future trends and best practice in urban water services and water resource management and support important AWA programs such as its awards, the mentoring program and its regional activities. Sascha

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Edward Bond | Arup

Edward is a Chartered Senior Civil Engineer and Civil Engineering Subject Matter Expert with sixteen years of experience providing civil designs and assessments with a speciality in WSUD, water quality treatment design, drainage, flood analysis and flood defence design, and construction stage erosion and sediment control. He has also provided design management, project management, client-side technical advice and independent civil engineering review across Australia, the UK and Middle East. Edward has delivered multi-discipline technical advisory services for a variety of sites and clients, as well as WSUD, drainage and water quality designs, civil engineering, flood studies, and construction phase services support. He has also delivered these services for a wide range of project types, including developments, high-profile precincts, commercial buildings, galleries, museums, hospitals, bridges, interstate highways, local roads, shared paths, bus corridors, light and heavy rail, intermodal terminals, subdivisions and mines. Edward is well versed in holistic design integration and staging and knows how to coordinate closely with discipline leads to develop effective, best for project designs. He is particularly passionate about WSUD, sustainable design from project inception, and designing for climate change resilience. Edward is currently the Sydney Water Technical Lead for five large, in-channel gross pollutant traps and all strategic WSUD infrastructure presently under investigation within Sydney. Further, Edward is currently leading the Civil Design for the Newcastle Art Gallery and an important section of George Street that runs through The Rocks for Place Management NSW, which includes water quality treatment, drainage design and flooding assessment.

David Hope | Independent Consultant

I am a former NSW President and National Vice-President. As President of NSW Branch in 1992, I inaugurated ten Special Interest Groups within the Branch, and later, in national roles, I helped introduce the concept across Australia. The original groups were technically-based, but we added Women-in-Water in 1999. Women-in-Water, almost exclusively made up of young women, morphed into the Young Water Professionals a few years later. Special Interest Groups were later rebranded as Specialist Networks. I held the national Board portfolio which included Ozwater and Water magazine from 2000-2006. I was a member of the NSW Branch Committee for over 20 years until a few years ago, and am a recipient of the Roger Pettit Award and AWA Life Membership. I now have some free time and am interested in becoming involved again.

Michael Carter | Beca Hunter H2O

Michael is a chartered Principal Process Engineer at Beca Hunter H2O with over 12 years of experience in the water industry. He has contributed to the water industry by leading projects throughout Australia and New Zealand, across the full project lifecycle from feasibility through to design, commissioning and ongoing operations and technical support. Michael is an active and vocal member of AWA's Newcastle Subcommittee, helping to improve AWA's outreach to regional NSW, and recently appointed as an AWA Regional Water Champion and the NSW AWA YWP of the Year 2022. He led the coordination of two successful AWA events. Michael is a fierce and enthusiastic advocate for regional water issues and has given a voice to his clients. It is Michael's vision that everyone in regional NSW has access to a safe and reliable water service and he would like to join the AWA committee to achieve this vision.

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Hussein Ismail | BMD Constructions Pty Ltd

I am a highly qualified Construction Manager with over 20 years' experience in the water infrastructure sector. I am a specialist in the development, design, construction, and commissioning of new facilities, upgrades, renewals of water and wastewater infrastructure. This also includes dams, treatment plants, pump stations, pipelines, reticulation renewals, water mains, sewer systems, reservoirs, channels and basins. Over my career, I have been responsible for managing and delivering a vast array of water projects which were of considerable value. I have been involved in everything from precontracts and delivery of water projects, financial reporting, governance and maintenance of client relationships, to the development of operational and safety procedures. My passion for the industry in which I have built my career and my profound desire to encourage positive change that has ultimately motivated me to become involved with the Australian Water Association.

Paul Freeman | Freeman Management Solutions Pty Ltd

I have over 44 years experience in the Australian water industry and have served on AWA Branch committees and the AWA Board for over 15 years. I am keen to continue my contribution to the water industry through my business and through the AWA. I look forward to being part of an exciting water industry future.

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