

QLD Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements

Leon Hellberg | Jacobs

A vibrant, engaged and progressive water industry is absolutely essential to serving our communities with distinction. I see participation in the QLD AWA branch committee as a great opportunity to contribute to the industry that has given me so much over the years. I'm an experienced leader and "people person", and I would love to share my energy and positivity with my water colleagues. Professionally, I have a background in civil engineering and have worked on a highly diverse range of projects, from water resources to urban water engineering, internationally. My expertise is in the development of feasibility studies and business cases for major water infrastructure. I enjoy working to integrate multiple disciplines and professions, and I feel that my ability to integrate diverse perspectives would make me a valuable branch committee member.

Michael Puntill | AECOM Australia Pty Ltd

After 25 years of working in the North Queensland and Northern Territory Water Industry, I have recently taken a new role with AECOM as the Group Lead Water – QNT based in Brisbane. During my career, I have worked across both state and local governments and in the past 20 years I have worked in consulting with AECOM. Being biased, the water industry is one of the most vibrant and exciting industries to work in and I have a keen interest in supporting the growth of the water industry in Queensland, and in particular regional Queensland. My interest in joining the AWA Branch Committee is to share my extensive experience and knowledge to promote the water industry as a progressive, inclusive and sustainable career opportunity for all.

Christian Truscott | City of Gold Coast

I have been in the water industry for almost 30 years and currently oversee the delivery of the capital works program for the City of Gold Coast's Water and Waste Directorate. Prior to my role on the Gold Coast, I was with Downer delivering large water infrastructure projects/programs of work predominately in collaborative contracting arrangements. I have been an active member of the Queensland Committee for the past 2 years and have particularly enjoyed working with the committee through the pandemic to enable AWA to continue to offer high quality technical events and conferences whilst keeping our members and the community safe. As we pivot back to the post pandemic world, we need to ensure that our offering to members strikes the right mix of digital, face to face and hybrid events.....at a reasonable price. This will be a focus of mine over the next term.

Charlene Wong | Aurecon

Charlene is a Senior Water Planning Consultant at Aurecon with eight years of professional experience. Charlene has demonstrated a high interest in water supply planning in terms of water security and drought management, and water quality optimisation for bulk and reticulated water supply systems. Charlene is an active member of AWA, currently as the Chair of the QLD Young Water Professional Sub-Committee. She is inspired by the passion and dedication demonstrated by the QLD Branch and YWP committee members to broaden the learning and networking opportunities for the AWA members. As she progresses in her career, Charlene is interested in bringing her intimate and up-to-date knowledge of the YWP's interests and concerns to the broader QLD Branch planning table to ensure the AWA QLD events continue to be relevant and engaging for a wide range of audience and networks.

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David Thomas | Aurecon

I have worked in the water industry for over 20 years since graduating as a civil engineer in the distant past of the 20th Century with the majority of my career in the Queensland water industry. A wise person once told me that the best way to effect change in the world is to stay still and change the little things you can as the world wizzes past. If you stay still long enough, eventually you'll change the world. I'm pretty sure that's a lie, but I like the sentiment and I feel it sums up why I'd like to join the Qld Branch Committee. As an individual I can have some impact, as part of a team I can have more impact, and as part of AWA I believe I can help make a real impact to my community by engaging with industry and our community to change our relationship with water. Water has inherent value to our communities and environment which is much greater than simply the input costs of supplying water and disposing of wastewater. I believe I can support this change in how industry and the community value water. I also have access to a fair bit of horsepower from my mothership company which I can judiciously harness for the benefit of AWA. Possibly relevant past experience - Community swimming club president, Kindergarten treasurer, Aurecon emerging professionals committee executive member.

Shihu Hu | The University of Queensland

I have been working in the water industry for 18 years, initially as a postgraduate student and then as a researcher at UQ. Currently I am an associate professor at UQ, focusing on the development of next generation water treatment technology, while teaching water engineering courses and supervising PhD students. Over the years, I had the privilege to know and work with many water professionals in the state and the nation, especially through my role as UQ manager at Urban Utilities' Innovation Centre. I have contributed to the projects winning the last five AWA QLD Branch's Research Innovation Award, by either leading the project (2016,2020) or participating in the project (2019) or facilitating the pilot study (2017, 2018). If I become a Branch Committee member, I like to help promote the collaboration across the whole sector to stimulate innovation, knowledge transfer, upskilling water professionals to be a future-ready workforce.

Leah Sertorio | Engineers Without Borders Australia

My primary focus throughout my career has been to deliver safe drinking water to the community. My 20+ years of professional experience in the water industry spans all stages of the source to tap water cycle to ensure a multi-barrier approach achieves the delivery of this outcome. In the workplace, I am known for being an approachable, responsive and supportive communicator who is committed to the sharing of knowledge and the development of teams. In my current role as Principal Water Adviser at Engineers Without Border I am responsible for the delivery of the Engineering on Country water program. The program outcome is to partner with First Nations communities in remote northern WA & Qld to enable access to safe, clean, reliable & resilient water supply, the knowledge to safely operate & maintain their system & the governance structure to support its sustainability. In my previous role, I was the Manager of Water Network Operations at Urban Utilities, responsible for the drinking water quality management and supply operations for 9300km of water network supplying 1.4 million South East Queensland customers. I am also on the executive committee of the Australian WASH reference group.

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Amie Aldred | WSP

Jingeri (hello in Yugambah language). I'm an active volunteer of the Queensland Branch Committee, having served 4 years in various roles including Treasurer and Chair of the Membership Services sub-committee, prior to Natalie Muir. I look forward to supporting our incoming President (Margit Connellan) and Past President (Nicole Davis) alongside the Queensland Branch to realign ourselves with a fresh new vision and Strategy '25. This will enable us to unlock even more value to our members' experience and continue putting on inspiring events that connect our water industry, so we can solve today and tomorrow's complex challenges better and more collaboratively. I also look forward to continuing the great work we are doing to increase the meaningful participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples in the water industry, in alignment with AWA's Reflect RAP, due to be released within the next few months. Exciting times ahead!

Justin Simonis | Promethean Projects

I have been an active contributor to the Queensland Branch since early 2010, holding roles in the Young Water Professionals (YWP) Subcommittee and the Branch Committee including the Chair of the YWP National Representative Committee and Queensland Branch President and Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) member. Through this time my passion has been the organisation of the Branch conferences (NQ and Q Water) and awards program and the helping YWPs at all levels:

- Branch – mentoring and sitting as a Branch Representative at committee meetings;
- national – helping to shape the National Taskforce as a member of the SAC; and
- international – I am currently mentoring a group of international YWPs to develop a mentoring program with the Australian Water Partnership.

13 years has not dampened my enthusiasm and if re-elected, I look forward to continuing to adapt and change the Branch to provide even better services to the water industry across the state.

Arran Canning | Veolia

I have over 17 years experience working directly in the water sector in Southeast Queensland. I started my water industry career at Gold Coast Water, moved to Seqwater for over a decade, spent time consulting with Water Futures and now I work with Veolia ANZ, as the Director of Strategy & Growth. I have held senior management and executive positions throughout this time and have had involvement in other committees such as the WSAA drinking water and recycled water committees and the WSAA Healthy Liveable Communities Committee. My areas of expertise include; water quality risk management, asset management, strategic, asset and operational planning and operational excellence. Having worked across public, private and consulting sectors I would bring a rounded view and varied experience to the committee. One of my current passions is how to support remote and regional communities with access to safe drinking water. I would like to be on the committee to contribute to the water sector and volunteering my time to a fantastic industry.

QLD Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Sean Hinton | Bligh Tanner

I've worked in the water industry for around 16 years in a range of private and public sector roles. When I started, we were in the grip of the Millennium Drought; and since then, I've seen the construction of the SEQ Water Grid, floods, major reform of the water sector, legislation implemented and some wound back, more floods, more droughts, and arguably continued under-investment in water infrastructure for some of our remote communities. What hasn't changed in this time is the enthusiasm I have, and encounter from so many others, to enact positive change in our industry despite the challenges we face. My expertise is in water quality and integrated water management, and my passion lies in projects that improve the safety of public water supplies, and/or increase the sustainability of our sector through a total water cycle management approach. I'd love the opportunity to be your branch representative.

Zak Floyde Smith | Aquatec Maxcon

As an enthusiastic participant in the national water industry, I am impressed at the breadth of work my colleagues undertake to protect the environment and public health. My contributions include:

- being an active AWA member since 2014;
- being on the organising committee of the successful 2018 Brisbane International Water Association NRR conference;
- being an active member of the QLD WIOA Committee since 2018 and assisting in organising charity events, regional and state wide conferences whilst also attending as a delegate; and
- participating in a Qld Water Directorate Initiative supporting regional water and sewerage service providers during the peak of the COVID pandemic in 2020.

Whilst our industry is pioneering science, technology and engineering, we need to advance public engagement and self-promotion of our industries' achievements whilst encouraging industry diversity. I would appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Committee to continue to connect industry stakeholders and inspire positive change.

James Foden | Engineering Networks

As a specialist search consultant within the water sector, I get the privilege to talk with 100's if not 1000's of individuals focused within the water sector right across Australia every single month. This is something I don't take for granted as I know I am in a fortunate position to gain valuable insights on industry trends and challenges that most people would not have access to. I get to hear and understand first-hand the issues that organisations and water industry professionals face when it comes to employment challenges within the industry, be it diversity and inclusion, geographic segmentation or how to promote their organisation and the industry. I am at the forefront of these and other topics daily which I believe puts me in good standing to give back to the industry that is vital to life which is why I would like to nominate for the QLD Committee.

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Janice Wilson | Double Black Diamond Solutions

Hello fellow AWA members! For the past two years, I served on the QLD Committee as Regional Liaison, helping to grow regional engagement across the state, specifically with regional hubs and the North Queensland conference. With a background in water and wastewater engineering, I serve as a director at the Mount Isa Water Board and at Double Black Diamond Solutions, a regionally based consulting firm. Originally from Canada, I have a diverse international background working with and leading multicultural teams in challenging environments. I am an active Committee member with a strong attendance record, and I am not afraid to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I would like to lend my support in making sure AWA engagements are relevant and valuable for our membership. I am eager for the opportunity to continue to connect, leveraging my network of water industry professionals from all ages, disciplines, and locations.

Chris Manning | Urban Water Advisory / Water Sensitive Cities Australia

I am recognised as a leader in integrated urban water management, particularly in North Qld. I have a long history of championing improved water management to achieve enhanced amenity, liveability, economic development, sustainability and resilience outcomes. I have also championed the role of smart technology and big data in empowering residents, consumers and operators to make better decisions around efficiently using water, improving catchment water quality and better managing water infrastructure. I have qualifications in science and integrated water management, and over 22 years' experience working at all levels of government. I have extensive networks in Qld and nationally. I was the Chair of the Reef Urban Stormwater Management group for 10 years and I have been a member of the TSV Local Marine Advisory Committee for 15 years. My participation on Qld Branch Committee leverages these networks, and my knowledge and experience.

Christina Feenstra | Veolia Australia and New Zealand

When I was 12 I told my family I wanted to work in "water". Years later I have built a career around opportunities to develop, understand and improve water in many aspects, and want to continue to do so in my own career while looking for opportunities to share to support the industry and young professionals in doing the same. I have extensive experience in the Operations and Maintenance of water treatment and desalination plants in the gas and utility industries, along with experience across a broad range of management and water engineering roles. To supplement my operational background, I also have experience in risk management, business development and strategy, and innovation projects. I am passionate about environmental sustainability and engaging with communities and governments, using our current and future water management options and treatment technologies to support a path towards a circular economy and net-zero solutions.

QLD Branch Committee Elections 2022 Nomination Statements (cont)

Jing Zhao | Australia centre for water and environmental biotechnology

Motivated and competent young water professional eager to contribute to the QLD Branch Committee. Throughout my doctoral studies, I have participated in numerous noteworthy water-related initiatives. An internship with Urban Utilities allowed me to establish connections within the water industry and gain practical experience. I am currently a young researcher at the University of Queensland focusing on mine waste rehabilitation. My diversified skills and experience will provide the QLD Branch Committee with innovative ideas in addition to technical support. In addition, I honed my communication, teamwork, and event planning skills as an HDR student representative and a green lab representative. I believe that my technical and professional skills will contribute to the committee.

Here is what I could bring to the table immediately and how I could contribute to the QLD Branch Committee:

- Innovative ideas
- Expand social network
- Event planning
- Strategy formulation and implementation
- Technical assistance