

NSW Branch Committee Elections 2023 Nomination Statements

Ashley Webb | WaterNSW

As a nominee, I would bring broad experience to the AWA NSW branch Committee as a senior leader with 25 years in water, river, land and catchment management. I have Honours degrees in Science and Law, with a PhD in Science, and have actively contributed to multiple state and national committees across a range of disciplines. I have been employed by WaterNSW since 2018 where I have held senior leadership positions in Water & Catchment Protection, Water Monitoring, and System Operations. I am currently the General Manager Water Planning & Delivery leading technical teams of river operators, water resources engineers, hydrologists and water quality scientists to deliver water to our customers and the environment, when and where it matters. I am interested in nominating for the committee to share knowledge and connect with other AWA members from the perspective of the state's largest dam operator and bulk water supplier.

Brendan Guiney | Water Directorate

I have served on the NSW branch committee since 2019. As Executive Officer at the NSW Water Directorate, my role is to support and advocate on behalf of nearly 90 local water utilities owned and operated by councils and county councils serving cities and towns across regional NSW.

I'm passionate about addressing water issues in regional areas, promoting solutions through regionally focussed virtual events and supporting and connecting with our Young Water Professionals. I'm a civil engineer with over 25 years of experience in water management in regional NSW with post-graduate qualifications in project management, business and training.

Brent Palidwar | Stantec

Brent Palidwar is a long standing AWA member, going on 15 years, and I am passionate about the Australian Water Sector. As a Principal Civil Engineer at Stantec and I have lead and participated in a breadth of projects across Australia. I have previously been a part of the AWA NSW Young Water Professionals, and have actively participated in many AWA events, both regionally and metropolitan. The AWA connects like minded professionals beyond our day to day work lives. 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. I believe that AWA members are here because they see the work of our industry as more than a job, and the AWA leads events that engage and promote the industry to form a professional community of like minded individuals.

My vision for the AWA is to continue to increase its industry profile, to truly reflect its status as the peak professional body of the water industry by continuing to support both individual and corporate member retention and growth through vibrant and relevant engagement.

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Chris Aspinall | Beca HunterH2O

I have been passionately working in the Australian and international water industry for almost 20 years. I have met so many incredible and enthusiastic people in the industry who have undoubtedly helped shape my career. Before I started working in the industry, I could never have imagined the diversity of places it would take me, or how much of a positive influence I could have on the community at large; from this perspective I think our industry is unparalleled. In my home state of NSW, I would love the opportunity to give back to the water industry through AWA branch committee representation. Having worked in numerous roles across the municipal and industrial sector, I feel I would bring a well-rounded, considered, and collaborative perspective that could help shape the AWA priorities and outcomes moving forward.

Clarissa Phillips | Jacobs

Working within the Australian Water Industry I have been responsible for the design and documentation delivery of over 20 large Water and Wastewater Infrastructure projects. In my leadership roles I have driven change and solved several planning issues such as leading a new strategy to engage Aboriginal communities and the implementation of challenging projects including the Murray Darling Water Resource Plans.

I have been a NSW committee member since 2015. My active involvement as a committee member has included participating in the AWA mentoring program, organising numerous events and seminars that benefit members and the Australian Water Industry.

As a NSW AWA committee member, I will continue to proactively seek opportunities to influence and drive change within the Australian Water Industry in order to deliver positive outcomes that benefit all AWA members.

Ivan Reolon | Aquatec Enviro

This year will be my 40th in the Water Sector and >30year involvement with the AWA. I want to bring my experience and contact network to the committee. I have recently started a role with Aquatec Enviro as Executive, Strategy & Growth in a national and international role. I was previously with NSW committee for 10 years and more recently winner of the Roger Pettit award and Legend of Water last year. I am part of the AWA Regional champions and feel its time to give back to the AWA in NSW as well as involve myself in AWA events nationally. My experience and day to day interactions utilities, consultants, stakeholders, suppliers, constructors, operations and maintenance organisations.

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Katherine Marshall | Sydney Water

As a passionate water professional for the past 22 years, my focus has been on working collaboratively with clients and stakeholders, to plan and deliver sustainable solutions for our communities. I have diverse experience in consulting, construction, business development, and major projects delivery. Over the last 5 years, I had the privilege in working for WaterNSW and Sydney Water as a Project Manager on some of largest critical significant infrastructure dams and water treatment projects in NSW. As an AWA NSW Branch committee member for 16 years, I have been pivotal in revamping our State Water conference, working the Young Water Professionals, judging the NSW Awards, mentoring, developing and promoting networks in the water sector. My vision for the committee is to continue to support our members through enabling a platform to share knowledge on industry innovation, whilst promoting diversity and inclusion in all areas of the water sector.

Nanda Altavilla | Department of Planning and the Environment

I am a water sector professional with over 20 years of experience in urban water quality, regulation, policy and reform. Being a member of AWA is a constant in my water career since joining as post graduate student, expanding my horizons, increasing my knowledge, and creating a support network of passionate and dedicated water professionals. I joined the Committee in 2018, to give back to the organisation that has enriched my career. As the president of the NSW Branch for the last two years, I have strived to ensure that the AWA provides value to its individual and corporate members and to support a diverse and collaborative water sector, while broadening our reach into regional NSW, seeking to learn from the Indigenous peoples of our nation. I am seeking renomination to continue delivering impactful and inspirational events and activities that support the values of AWA to share knowledge, inspire and connect water professionals for a sustainable water future.

Nicole Harvey | Sydney Water

After completing a Degree in Systems Agriculture, I worked at the Department of Agriculture water and environment for 19 years. In 2021 I started with Sydney Water as a Program Specialist/ Water leak detection dog trainer/handler and Water Ambassador. My role involved locating drinking water leaks using a scent detection dog and increase water literacy and strengthen community connections through education opportunities and initiatives as a water ambassador. Working at Sydney Water has strengthened my knowledge in urban water management and water conservation and brought me back to my ground roots I studied at university which was managing our natural water resources and looking at ways we can do it better. I believe I can bring a diverse background and experience in Agriculture, Biosecurity and water innovation to the committee and would love to opportunity to share, connect, and help shape our water future.

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Omar Kabbara | Port Macquarie Hastings Council

As a Process Utilities Manager, I have played a crucial role in managing the operations of water and wastewater treatment plants, ensuring the efficient and effective treatment of water and wastewater to meet regulatory standards. I have been responsible for overseeing a team of operators and engineers, developing and implementing operational plans, and maintaining assets. My goal has been inspiring and motivating my team to achieve high standards of performance. I commit to knowledge sharing and capacity building, mentoring junior staff, and sharing my expertise with colleagues. I also have been an active member of the water community, participating in conferences, workshops, and other industry events. Overall, my contributions to the water industry including presenting at OzWater'22 and my commitment to excellence make me an ideal candidate for the Branch Committee of the Australian Water Association. I am confident that I will bring a wealth of experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the role.

Paul Freeman | Freeman Management Solutions

I have demonstrated my input to AWA at both national and state levels. I was previously a Board member from 2007 to 2013 and have served significant period on the Branch committee as both a committee member and President. I'm keen to once again contribute my time to the NSW branch and help mentor the next generation of committee members.

Rebecca Baldwin | Sydney Water

With more than 17 years' experience working in the water sector, I bring extensive knowledge across strategy and planning, research and innovation, communications, and engagement. I've worked both interstate and overseas and spent time in relevant Ministerial offices. During this time, I have accumulated an excellent contacts' network from across many disciplines. I am passionate about water and environmental management, customer service and climate adaptation, and dedicated to the improvement of First Nations engagement and involvement in caring for Country. Over the past two years I've served on the AWA NSW Branch Committee, I've contributed to several sub-committees to ensure the success of the Industry Breakfast (2021), Heads of Water (2021 and 2022) and progression of the Indigenous sub-committee. I consistently provide insight into the current water sector issues, assist with topics, corporate sponsors and speakers for events, and promote the AWA and its events within my workplace and network.

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Sally Rewell | Sydney Water

Sally works for Sydney Water as the Water Resource Recovery Leader – South, managing the 8 WRRF facilities from Bondi to Bombo. She has also held roles at Sydney Water in operations management, safety and program management. Sally has a Masters of Engineering Management from UTS and a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (Honours) from USyd. Sally is currently on the AWA NSW Branch committee and co-chair of the National Operations Specialist Network. For the AWA, Sally has been a member of the NSW Branch from 2012 and enjoys organising events including seminar series and mentoring YWPs. Sally's vision for the NSW Branch is to continue to help grow and mentor the YWPs, who are the future of the water industry. And, to provide events to our members that help to grow understanding of big issues in the water industry so we can solve problems together.

Sarah Board | SMEC

I have enjoyed over 21 years in the water sector, initially based QLD and more recently in NSW. Over my career I have relished the support and knowledge shared through the AWA network. I am passionate about developing solutions to complex challenges and making a positive impact through the work done in the sector. Though my role on the NSW committee, I enjoy connecting individuals and organisations to pool knowledge and experience. I am an advocate for diversity of thought. I sit on the SMEC Reconciliation Action Plan Committee, previously chaired the SMEC Diversity Committee and supporter of the Consult Australia Mental Health Ambassador Network.

Sharon Bonita Kraut | Aurecon

I am excited to nominate myself for the AWA NSW Branch Committee. With years of experience in designing plumbing services and urban water reticulation, I can contribute to this committee. I have designed plumbing systems for large-scale commercial and residential buildings, as well as water supply and distribution systems for urban areas. My significant achievement was leading a team to design and construct a 178-housing development in Johannesburg, South Africa which included water and sewer reticulation, roads, and stormwater. I have expertise in hydraulic modelling, urban water infrastructure design, and asset management. I am passionate about using innovative approaches to address challenges related to aging infrastructure and integrating sustainability principles into water infrastructure design. If appointed to the AWA NSW Branch Committee, I will bring my extensive technical knowledge and experience to promote sustainable and equitable water infrastructure solutions. Thank you for considering my nomination.

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Sinduja Sritharan | Sydney Water

I am nominating myself as I have a great passion for the water and especially the wastewater industry and want to give back by sharing experiences and connecting with other likeminded professionals. I have over 12 years experience working in the water sector including wastewater operations, business change and management and I currently manage the 2 largest inland wastewater plants (St Marys and Quakers Hill) in Sydney. These are home to innovative technology including Thermal Hydrolysis and Aerobic Granular Sludge treatment. I have a strong technical background and want to contribute further to building a smart and sustainable future. I am also interested in the professional development this opportunity will provide. I have previously been Vice Chair on the Young Water Professionals NSW committee and found that a rewarding experience and am ready to be part of the NSW Branch Committee.

Steve Adamthwaite | Arup

I am nominating for re-election to the NSW Branch Committee. I have served on the Branch for two terms, with the last as Vice President, sitting on the AWA's Strategic Advisory Council for the past two years. I have also chaired the Newcastle Sub-committee from 2019-2022 and been part of the organisation committee for the 2022 NSW State Conference, the 2022 YWP National Conference and the 2023 Heads of Water Forum. I am a dedicated volunteer within the AWA and would love to continue to serve the members on the Branch Committee for the next term.

I am Arup's NSW/ACT Water Business Leader, leading a business with over 80 water professionals across all disciplines in Sydney, Newcastle and Canberra as well as Regional areas. This experience gives me a broad base of experience to draw from and allows me to leverage my position and industry contacts to AWA's benefit. As a Chemical Engineer who specialises in Infrastructure Strategy I am keen to work with the AWA and continue to shape how our industry views and values sustainability, resilience and adaption as part of our planning.

I am keen to continue working on some of the key initiatives we have been able to start within my last term such as The Regional Champions program, and embedding Strategy '25 into our ways of working. I believe that my position within Arup, and the broader industry including as NSW Chair for WaterAid, and my Regional perspective puts me in a good position to contribute across the breadth of our activities at AWA.

Steven Muliawan | WSP

Hi Everyone, it's Steven Muliawan here. I am a Senior Process Engineer in the Water Treatment team at WSP in Sydney and I have been working in the Water industry for close to 12 years. I have been a dedicated member of the AWA NSW YWP Committee for the past 7 years, where I have had the privilege to be the Chair of the committee for the past two years as well as to create various events for our Young Water Professionals in my previous roles as Vice Chair, Social and PD Coordinator and Mentoring Coordinator. This year, I am planning to continue my involvement in the AWA Committee through the NSW Branch and I would greatly appreciate it if you can please vote for me so I can represent the YWP in the Branch Committee. I hope that through my experience in the YWP Committee, I can bring a different perspective to assist our Branch with upcoming event planning, members engagement and strategy development as well as be the bridge between the YWP and Branch Committees.

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Stuart Khan | UNSW Sydney

I am a long-term active member of the AWA. I teach and undertake research on water and wastewater engineering at UNSW and am also closely engaged with industry and government. I'm a member of the NSW Metropolitan Water Advisory Panel, appointed by the NSW Water Minister to advise on topics including the NSW metropolitan water strategies. I also play an active role in public communication and engagement, working hard to raise the profile of the water industry and its important functions in the community. In particular, I have focused on improving public understanding of potential (or actually) controversial water-management related issues.

Zena Smith-White | AECOM Australia Pty Ltd

The work we do in the water industry brings life to communities. As a water professional I am proud to make a real difference to people and our environment. With over 20 years' experience in water planning and modelling, I currently lead AECOM's Water Team in Sydney to deliver interesting and innovative water outcomes whilst growing and developing our talent. In 2021 I joined the NSW Branch Committee to contribute, engage and celebrate the important work of the water industry. My vision for AWA Branch in NSW is to focus on supporting and building a water sector that is ready to face the challenges of delivering environmental, liveability and affordability outcomes for customers and communities. I am passionate about water recycling and reuse to deliver sustainable futures, and I look forward to the day when we can all enjoy a cool glass of purified recycled water on a hot day.