



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Australian Water Association and Water Services Association of Australia team up to amplify Voices for the Bush

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The Australian Water Association (AWA) and Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) are excited to bring the first-ever [Voices for the Bush Conference](#) in Alice Springs on 9 and 10 August.

The conference provides a space to come together in the heart of the country to resolve the challenges faced by regional, rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Australian Water Association CEO Corinne Cheeseman said the conference was an exciting opportunity to bring together experts and leaders in water management from across the country to discuss the unique challenges in local communities.

“It’s exciting to be getting together in Alice Springs, the heart of the country, for this inaugural conference that provides a platform for experts and practitioners in this important field to share their skills and knowledge,” Cheeseman said.

“A national conference devoted to regional, rural and remote communities is long overdue, and will be key in securing a sustainable water future for local communities the country over.”

Ms Cheeseman highlighted the attendance and scheduled Ministerial Address from Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health.

“Along with numerous experts in water management, it is terrific that the new Minister will be speaking at the conference, highlighting the importance of water management in remote and Indigenous communities across the country.

“I’m looking forward to seeing what positive changes can come from this gathering and renewed focus on addressing the challenges and opportunities for water management in regional and rural parts of the country.”

Adam Lovell, the Executive Director at Water Services Association of Australia, particularly highlighted the importance of working with Indigenous Australian communities to improve their access to water and wastewater services.

“Listening and sharing are so important, especially in the context of Closing the Gap in the provision of water and wastewater services for Indigenous Australian communities and also for rural and regional communities,” said Mr Lovell.

“Ensuring all Australians receive clean safe drinking water is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.”

Mr Lovell said that he believed the conference was a terrific opportunity in bringing together a range of practitioners and decision-makers in a renewed focus on local water management.

“The inaugural Voices for the Bush conference program has been built towards listening and sharing and will bring together representatives from Indigenous Australian communities, water utilities, governments, researchers and consultants,” Mr Lovell said.

“WSAA is proud to jointly host the conference with the AWA and we look forward to identifying new and emerging solutions, technologies and practices. Please join us in Alice Springs.”

## **ENDS**

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### **About the Australian Water Association**

Australian Water Association is Australia’s biggest water network inspiring and driving a sustainable water future, with a membership of over 5,000 individual and corporate members.

[www.awa.asn.au](http://www.awa.asn.au)