

MEDIA RELEASE

Voices for the Bush amplified in Alice Springs on securing clean water and sanitation for all Australians

8 August 2022

The Australian Water Association (AWA) and Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA) are proud to present the first-ever [Voices for the Bush Conference](#) at the Alice Springs Convention Centre this week on Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 August.

The conference will bring together over 230 people from across Australia to the country's heart. Together they will discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by regional, rural, remote and Indigenous communities in providing secure and safe water supply and sanitation.

Representatives from the Federal Government will be participating, with a virtual message provided by the Hon Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water, and an in-person address from Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health.

There will also be keynote addresses from Patricia Turner AM, the CEO of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and Dr Phil Duncan, traditional owner Gomerioi, Kamilaroi, Gamilaroi Nation.

Ms Cheeseman said the strong demand for conference attendance, which has resulted in the introduction of an online conference live stream, highlighted the importance of its themes and goals.

"Interest has been so high that we've now established a live stream, so that those from around Australia who can't make it to Alice Springs can join online and hear the discussion about key issues and opportunities in water management in our regions and remote communities," Ms Cheeseman said.

"It's really heartening to see people who work right across water management coming together to discuss the challenges and solutions. Every Australian community should have access to secure, clean and safe drinking water and that is at the heart of what this is about.

"The health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities across Australia is important and this should be enshrined in a renewed National Water Initiative. With the participation of Ministers McCarthy and Plibersek, the Association is looking forward to working with the Government to set out our aspirations, plans and actions."

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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