

NSW STATE CONFERENCE

Liquid Futures: Rethinking
Water Management for a Fast
Changing World

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025 – DAY ONE

8:30am Registration and Trade Exhibition Open

SESSION 1: OPENING DAY ONE (MC - Clarissa Phillips, NSW Branch President)
CONCERT HALL

9:00am Welcome to Country – Aunty Cheryl Yaramun

9:10am Official Conference Open by Conference Chair – Brendan Dagg, Beca HunterH2O

9:15am AWA Welcome – Corinne Cheeseman, CEO

9:20am Principal Sponsor Address – Tadhg Kelliher, Eire Constructions



9:25am Principal Sponsor Address – Darren Cleary, Hunter Water



9:30am Minister's Address – The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC

9:40am Keynote Address & Introduction to Panel - Kevin Young, Executive Director, TasWater
Looking Back, Thinking Forward

9:50am Panel - Looking Back, Thinking Forward

Kevin Young, Executive Director, TasWater (Panel Moderator)

Emma Berry, Executive Manager Strategy & Engagement, Hunter Water Corporation

Peter Dennis, Past National President AWA, Beca HunterH2O

The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC - Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth

10:30am Morning Tea – Trade Exhibition

**SESSION 2: Water Assets and
Infrastructure
CONCERT HALL**

**SESSION 3: Regulation and
Policy CUMMINGS ROOM**

ARUP

**SESSION 4: Not so Soft
Skills
HUNTER ROOM**

11:10am Session Commences

ID

Session Commences

ID

Session Commences

ID

11:15am **POSTER:** ENHANCING
WASTEWATER
RESILIENCE WITH AI:
BALLINA SHIRE
COUNCIL'S FIGHT
AGAINST SEA WATER
INFILTRATION
*Mark Lee, VAPAR
INNOVATION PTY LTD*

11

POSTER: ARE ON-SITE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT
SYSTEMS WELL REGULATED IN
NSW?
Patrick Garry

40

POSTER: VALUING
WHAT MATTERS –
ENSURING
COMMUNITY
VALUES AND
TECHINICAL
RESPONSES ALIGN
THROUGH SOCIAL
VALUE
Gavin Alford, Jacobs

43

11:20am SMART INVESTMENT:
OPTIMISING RESILIENCE


32

A PROPOSED NEW VISION FOR
WATER RECYCLING IN NSW-

71

CO-DESIGN FOR
RESILIENT FUTURES

19

	AND SUSTAINABILITY WITH DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING <i>Sally Williamson, Aurecon</i>		DRAFT -RECYCLED WATER ROADMAP <i>Erin Toner, DCCEEW</i> <i>Nanda Altavilla, DCCEEW</i>		IN WISEMANS FERRY <i>Nicola Perry, Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd</i>	
11:40am	RAPID PFAS TREATMENT DELIVERY AND INTEGRATION AT CASCADE W FP <i>Alex Frost, Sydney Water</i> <i>Jeffrey Meljnderts, Sydney Water</i> ★	25	FROM REGULATION TO REALITY: HOW AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSED PFAS STANDARDS COULD TRANSFORM DRINKING WATER MANAGEMENT FOR A FAST-CHANGING WORLD <i>Farhana Allie, Aurecon</i> ★	35	INCIDENT & EMERGENCY RESPONSE – SKILLS DEVELOPMENT IN CRITICAL DECISION MAKING <i>Kathy Northcott, Veolia ANZ</i>	5
12:00pm	MANAGING THE TASTE AND ODOR COMPOUND 2-MIB IN HUNTER WATER'S GRAHAMSTOWN DRINKING WATER SUPPLY <i>Vikas Shah, Hunter Water Corporation</i>	34	INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT - NSW IWCM FRAMEWORK <i>Emma Brunton, DCCEEW</i> <i>Beata Sochacka, DCCEEW</i> ★	66	BEYOND THE SPREADSHEET: ENGAGING TOOLS TO ELEVATE RISK DISCUSSIONS <i>Jo Preston, Beca HunterH2O</i>	62
12:20pm	Lunch – Trade Exhibition					
	SESSION 5: Connecting Ecosystems, Land, Environment and Catchments CONCERT HALL		SESSION 6: Story of Water CUMMINGS ROOM		SESSION 7: Industry and Water Nexus HUNTER ROOM	
1:20pm	<i>Session Commences</i>	ID	<i>Session Commences</i>	ID	<i>Session Commences</i>	ID
1:25pm			POSTER: THE HISTORY OF WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES IN NEWCASTLE <i>Cole Zacharko, GHD</i>	65	POSTER: CLOSED-LOOP VALUE GENERATION FOR DESALINATION PLANTS: THE SUEZ-RESOURCEAS APPROACH TO BRINE VALORIZATION <i>Delia Pastorelli, SUEZ</i>	26
1:30pm	ASSESSING PASSIVE SAMPLERS FOR SOURCE WATER CHARACTERIZATION AND EVENT-BASED DATA COLLECTION <i>Alexander Rubin, WaterNSW</i>	17	FUTURE FORWARD FIRST NATIONS TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM <i>Simone Looibritton, Veolia</i> <i>Courtney Harris, Veolia</i>	21	ADVANCING THE WATER NEXUS BY ACHIEVING STRINGENT WATER QUALITY TARGETS IN STATE SIGNIFICANT METRO PROJECTS <i>Nilmini Pannipitiya, SMEC</i>	14
1:50pm	EXPERT-INFORMED OPTIMISATION: A SMARTER FUTURE FOR WETLAND WATER <i>Rebecca Carlier, Beca/University of Newcastle</i>	58	STORYTELLING TO PROMOTE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LOCAL WATER UTILITIES <i>Hannah Crockford, DCCEEW</i> <i>Dillon Aldridge, Bega Valley Shire Council</i>	68	HUBGRADE PERFORMANCE PLANT AT BELMONT WWTW - A DIGITAL SOLUTION TO A PHYSICAL PROBLEM <i>Andrew Webb, Veolia Water Operations</i> <i>Richard Mamone, Veolia</i> ★	20

2:10pm	ENGAGEMENT, VALUE MANAGEMENT AND OUTPERFORMANCE: LEVERS FOR ENHANCING EFFICIENCY AND PROMOTING EQUITY WITHIN THE WATER INDUSTRY <i>Renny Chivunga, Acciona</i>	67	WATERTALKS, IN SEARCH OF WATER NARRATIVES IN THE COQUUN-MYAN RIVER <i>Irene Perez Lopez, University of Newcastle</i>		COOLING THE DIGITAL SURGE: NAVIGATING WATER DEMANDS FOR AUSTRALIA'S GROWING DATA CENTRE ECONOMY <i>Kate Rowan, Aurecon Group</i>	37
2:30pm					SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES DELIVERING AND OPERATING A DECENTRALISED INTEGRATED WATER SYSTEM IN THE HUNTER VALLEY <i>Ben Asquith, Decentralised Water Australia</i>	60
2:50pm	Afternoon Tea – Trade Exhibition					
	SESSION 8: Connecting Ecosystems, Land, Environment and Catchments CONCERT HALL		SESSION 9: Water Assets and Infrastructure CUMMINGS ROOM	ARUP	SESSION 10: Future of Water HUNTER ROOM	
3:20pm	Session Commences	ID	Session Commences		Session Commences	ID
3:25pm	Managing Source Water Quality to Improve Drinking Water Safety: Practical Tools for LWUs <i>Fiona Loadsman, WaterNSW</i>	12	RETHINKING WATER MANAGEMENT: EMBEDDING OPERATIONAL EXPERTISE IN ASSET RENEWALS <i>Alexandra Bell, Sydney Water</i>	51	NSW: LEADING THE WAY ON PURIFIED RECYCLED WATER <i>Danielle Francis, Water Services Association of Australia</i>	63
3:45pm	RIVER MURRAY 2022-23 FLOOD REVIEW <i>David Winfield, Alluvium Consulting</i> <i>Paul Simpson, Alluvium Consulting</i>	33	TRIAL OF OXYGENATION IN THE DARLING BAABA RIVER NEAR MENINDEE <i>Joe Pera, WaterNSW</i>	27	HUNTER WATER DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PARTNERSHIP: ACHIEVEMENTS & LEARNINGS FROM 4 YEARS OF DELIERY USING A COLLABORATIVE MODEL <i>Joshua Plummer, Beca HunterH2O</i> <i>David Sidie, Jacobs</i> <i>Rob Main, Hunter Water</i>	56
4:05pm	CHANNEL CAPACITY AND FLOOD FREQUENCY CHANGES IN THE HUNTER VALLEY: 1955-2025 <i>Ashley Webb, WaterNSW</i>	24	WASTEWATER NETWORK PERFORMANCE BENEFITS FROM IMPLEMENTING DERIVED FLOW AT HUNTER WATER <i>Chris Farragher, Hunter Water</i>	30	EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSOR REMOVAL AT MACARTHUR WATER FILTRATION PLANT <i>Luca Nicholls, TRILITY</i>	45
4:25pm	Meet the Trade drinks – Trade Exhibition					
6:30pm	Conference Dinner – Noah's on the Beach					

WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2025 – DAY TWO

8:30am Registration and Trade Exhibition Open

SESSION 11: OPENING DAY TWO CONCERT HALL

9:00am Welcome to Day Two by NSW Branch President / Reflections on Day 1 – Clarissa Phillips

9:10am Careers in Water – Kirsty Jones, Australian Water Association

9:15am Address - Steph Cooke MP, NSW Shadow Water Minister

9:25am City of Newcastle Councillor Address – Councillor Declan Clausen

9:35am Keynote Speaker - Michael Roberts, ARUP
Critical Infrastructure Resilience in the Water Sector

9:55am TAPPING TALENT: THE FUTURE WATER WORKFORCE IN REGIONAL NSW –
Lisa Andersons, NSW DCCEEW & Brendan Guiney, NSW Water Directorate

10:15am SELF-REGULATION SKILLS FOR PSYCHOLOGICALLY SAFE WORKPLACES
Belinda Chapman, Belinda Chapman Leadership
Submission ID 13



10:35am Morning Tea – Trade Exhibition

SESSION 12: WATER ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERT HALL

SESSION 13: Future of Water CUMMINGS ROOM

11:10am Session Commences

ID

Session Commences

ID

11:15am MACROALGAL BIOREMEDIATION, A
FULLY CIRCULAR AND COST-
EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO TREAT
WASTEWATER
Emma James, Sydney Water
Sam Bastounas, Pacific Biotechnologies
(Australia)

69

SALTWATER CONTAMINATION OF RAW WATER
SUPPLIES
Ben Golding, Beca HunterH2O
Xavier Thacker, Rous County Council

36

11:35am IMPACT OF PHOSPHOROUS ON
SLUDGE DEWATERABILITY
Binod Agarwalla, Water Corporation

18

PIONEERING A SUSTAINABLE WATER
INVESTMENT MARKET: USING CERTIFICATION
AND MARKETS TO ENABLE WATER POSITIVE
SOLUTIONS
Kurt Dahl, coNEXA

7

11:55am INNOVATION IN USE: ADVANCES IN
CERAMIC MEMBRANES FOR WATER
TREATMENT
Mitchell Dixon, Ramboll

46

A RISK-BASED APPROACH TO CAPACITY
ASSESSMENT TO DEFER CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE
Josef Cesca, Jacobs

42

12:15pm PRACTICAL AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE
COLORIMETRIC ANTI-AGGREGATION
NANOPARTICLE SENSOR FOR
PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) IN
WATER
Jiaying Li, University of Sydney

54

A SAFETY PERSPECTIVE: MANAGING TRUNK
MAIN FAILURE
Adam Elharte, Hunter Water
Jena Cahill, Beca Hunter H2O

59

12:35pm Lunch – Trade Exhibition

alluvium
group

**SESSION 14: THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS WATER STEWARDSHIP IN SHAPING REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
CONCERT HALL**

1:35pm *Session Commences*

1:40pm **PANEL - THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS WATER STEWARDSHIP IN SHAPING REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT**

NSW Regional Water Champions

Jamie Soward, Field Assistant, Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) (Panel Moderator)

Tara Dever, CEO, Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Tarra Coulter, Aboriginal Water Program, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water

Donna Kennedy, Senior Engagement Officer, DCCEEW

Phil Duncan, Australian Principal Aboriginal Cultural Advisor - BecaHunterH2O, & Galambany Professorial, Fellow University of Canberra Centre of Applied Water Science

2:50pm **CONFERENCE CLOSE AND BEST PAPER AWARD**

3:00pm **CONFERENCE CONCLUDES**

★ *Top paper finalist*

Program correct at 4.8.25

Thank you to our NSW State Conference 2025 Sponsors:

Principal Sponsors



Conference Dinner Sponsor



Welcome Networking Function Sponsor



Site Tour Sponsor



YWP Breakfast Sponsor



Best Paper Award Sponsor



Coffee Cart Sponsor

STORMHARVESTER

Conference Session Sponsor

ARUP

Conference Lunch Sponsor – Day 1



Conference Lunch Sponsor – Day 2

