

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	Minster's Address – The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC					
9:40am	Keynote Address & Introduction to Panel - Kevin Young, Executive Director, TasWater <i>Looking Back, Thinking Forward</i>					
9:50am	Panel - Looking Back, Thinking Forward <i>Kevin Young, Executive Director, TasWater (Panel Moderator)</i> <i>Emma Berry, Executive Manager Strategy & Engagement, Hunter Water Corporation</i> <i>Peter Dennis, Past National President AWA, Beca HunterH2O</i> <i>The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC - Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth</i>					
10:30am	Morning Tea – Trade Exhibition					
	SESSION 2: Water Assets and Infrastructure CONCERT HALL		SESSION 3: Regulation and Policy <i>CUMMINGS ROOM</i>		ARUP	SESSION 4: Not so Soft Skills HUNTER ROOM
11:10am	Session Commences	ID	Session Commences		ID	Session Commences
11:15am	POSTER: ENHANCING WASTEWATER RESILIENCE WITH AI: BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL'S FIGHT AGAINST SEA WATER INFILTRATION <i>Mark Lee, VAPAR INNOVATION PTY LTD</i>	11	POSTER: ARE ON-SITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS WELL REGULATED IN NSW? <i>Patrick Garry</i>		40	POSTER: VALUING WHAT MATTERS – ENSURING COMMUNITY VALUES AND TECHINCAL RESPONSES ALIGN THROUGH SOCIAL VALUE <i>Gavin Alford, Jacobs</i>
11:20am	SMART INVESTMENT: OPTIMISING RESILIENCE	32	A PROPOSED NEW VISION FOR WATER RECYCLING IN NSW-		71	CO-DESIGN FOR RESILIENT FUTURES

	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	ARUP	SESSION 7: Industry and Water Nexus HUNTER ROOM	
1:20pm	Session Commences	ID	Session Commences	ID	Session Commences	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-RESOURSEAS 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					SUCCESSES 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 <i>CONCERT HALL</i>		SESSION 9: Water Assets and Infrastructure <i>CUMMINGS ROOM</i>	ARUP	SESSION 10: Future of Water <i>HUNTER ROOM</i>	
3:20pm	<i>Session Commences</i>	ID	<i>Session Commences</i>		<i>Session Commences</i>	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 BAAKA RIVER NEAR MENINDEE <i>Joe Pera, WaterNSW</i>	27	HUNTER WATER DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PARTNERSHIP: ACHIEVEMENTS & LEARNINGS FROM 4 YEARS OF DELIVERY 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
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**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**

		ID		ID
11:10am	<i>Session Commences</i>		<i>Session Commences</i>	
11:15am	MACROALGAL BIOREMEDIATION, A FULLY CIRCULAR AND COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO TREAT WASTEWATER <i>Emma James, Sydney Water</i> <i>Sam Bastounas, Pacific Biotechnologies (Australia)</i>	69	SALTWATER CONTAMINATION OF RAW WATER SUPPLIES <i>Ben Golding, Beca HunterH2O</i> <i>Xavier Thacker, Rous County Council</i>	36
11:35am	IMPACT OF PHOSPHOROUS ON SLUDGE DEWATERABILITY <i>Binod Agarwalla, Water Corporation</i>	18	PIONEERING A SUSTAINABLE WATER INVESTMENT MARKET: USING CERTIFICATION AND MARKETS TO ENABLE WATER POSITIVE SOLUTIONS <i>Kurt Dahl, coNEXA</i>	7
11:55am	INNOVATION IN USE: ADVANCES IN CERAMIC MEMBRANES FOR WATER TREATMENT <i>Mitchell Dixon, Ramboll</i>	46	A RISK-BASED APPROACH TO CAPACITY ASSESSMENT TO DEFER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE <i>Josef Cesca, Jacobs</i>	42
12:15pm	PRACTICAL AND HIGHLY SENSITIVE COLORIMETRIC ANTI-AGGREGATION NANOPARTICLE SENSOR FOR PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) IN WATER <i>Jiaying Li, University of Sydney</i>	54	A SAFETY PERSPECTIVE: MANAGING TRUNK MAIN FAILURE <i>Adam Elharte, Hunter Water</i> <i>Jena Cahill, Beca Hunter H2O</i>	59
12:35pm	Lunch – Trade Exhibition			

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

1:35pm	<i>Session Commences</i>
1:40pm	<p>PANEL - THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS WATER STEWARDSHIP IN SHAPING REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT</p> <p>NSW Regional Water Champions</p> <p>Jamie Soward, Field Assistant, Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) (Panel Moderator)</p> <p>Tara Dever, CEO, Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council</p> <p>Tarra Coulter, Aboriginal Water Program, Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water</p> <p>Donna Kennedy, Senior Engagement Officer, DCCEEW</p> <p>Phil Duncan, Australian Principal Aboriginal Cultural Advisor - BecaHunterH2O, & Galambany Professorial, Fellow University of Canberra Centre of Applied Water Science</p>
2:50pm	CONFERENCE CLOSE AND BEST PAPER AWARD
3:00pm	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

★ Top paper finalist

Program correct at 4.8.25

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