

# Regional, Rural and Remote Water (RRR) Specialist Network Action Plan 2023 - 2025

## 1. Scope of the Specialist Network

The aim of the Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) Specialist Network is to be a source of information, an advocate for issues, and a network that facilitates information exchange in the wider water sector.

The primary focus of this Specialist Network is on the water systems for all rural, regional and remote communities throughout Australia. This can include:

- Water supply systems (both potable and non-potable)
- Wastewater supply systems
- Stormwater systems
- Irrigation networks
- Catchment management, treatment and distribution systems
- Water reuse or recycling systems
- River /surface water management and hydrology
- Rainwater collection
- Integrated water management

For guidance, rural, regional and remote areas have been adopted as per the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3 ([Remoteness Areas | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/remoteness-areas))

For a water system to work effectively and sustainably, there needs to be integration across many areas and disciplines. In this context, our Specialist Network will be collaborating with other AWA Specialist Networks, State Committees and broader AWA initiatives to aspire to provide a holistic approach to the governance of small water management systems.

We aim to achieve this by:

- Facilitating knowledge sharing and access to appropriate technologies and their viability for application
- Promoting RRR initiatives to our members and the wider community
- Engaging with other Specialist Networks on topics that are relevant to the RRR community
- Improving connectivity between water utilities, organisations and interest groups across the Australasian water industry
- Encouraging engagement from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and suppliers to promote suitable solutions and technologies
- Engaging with relevant broader industry associations to better understand the needs and opportunities in RRR communities
- Promoting water and wastewater planning and strategies for remote communities in Australia
- Promoting and highlighting staff development and retention within regional water utilities

## 2. Specialist Network Committee Members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>State/Territory</b>
Damien Abbott	GEA Australia	Victoria
Dr Danny Burkett	BG&E	Western Australia
Craig Cahill	Sunwater	Queensland
Michael Carter	Beca Hunter H2O	New South Wales
Damayanthi Chandrasekera		Western Australia
Lloyd Eley-Smith	Department of Planning and Environment	New South Wales
Shane Harrison	Veolia	Queensland
Trevor Sultana	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	New South Wales
Dr. Kuruvilla Mathew	Murdoch University	Western Australia
Samantha McGufficke	Orange City Council	New South Wales
Janice Wilson	Double Black Diamond Solutions	Queensland
Ben Kele	Arris Pty Ltd	Queensland

## 3. Committee objectives for 2023 - 2025

The Rural, Regional and Remote Specialist Network's core objective is to ensure that its members are adequately represented, and deliver this in line with AWA's Strategy 2025 Focus Areas:

