

Smart Water Connect Program

TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2026
AERIAL FUNCTION CENTRE, UTS, SYDNEY

8:15 AM
9:00 AM

Arrival

Morning Plenary

From strategy to scale: How planning and practice can unlock Australia's next era of water efficiency

9:00 AM
10:00 AM

Australia has a strong water efficiency story, but the next chapter depends on turning strategy into action. Russell will explore the policy and evidence shaping future investment, while Guenter shares lessons from 20 years of program delivery. Join this session to discover how strategy and implementation can unlock the next generation of water savings.

RUSSELL BEATTY, PRINCIPLE WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER AND ECONOMIST, HARC & GUENTER HAUBER-DAVIDSON, DIRECTOR, UTILIOS

Driving Community Engagement and Behaviour Change

SESSION SPONSOR **WATER NIGHT**

A curriculum in motion:
Mobilising water education across communities

RYAN BESGROVE, SENIOR ADVISOR WATER LITERACY & EDUCATION - SYDNEY WATER

The rise of wellness as a water security challenge

EMMA STEWART, WATER EFFICIENCY MANAGER, DEECA

The Water Guardians:
Educating the next generation for healthy communities

KATE BEARD, MARKETING PROJECT SPECIALIST - COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, TASWATER

Non-residential water efficiency solutions

SESSION SPONSOR **NPSO**

Expanding the WELS scheme into non-residential products

TERESA MCMAUGH, DIRECTOR, WELS PROGRAM, DCCEEW

Collaborating for Water Security: Engaging Major Non-Residential Customers through the Water RoadMap Program

SANDRA HALL, CEO, WSAP

\$4M in sustainability savings within the tourism sector

RYAN DILLON, WEBSTERS GROUP AND KIRRALEE DONOVAN, WATER SUSTAINABILITY LEAD, ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

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TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2026
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11:15 AM
11:45 AM

Morning Tea

Strengthening Drought Resilience and Outdoor Water Management

SESSION SPONSOR **Hunter®**

Choosing water efficiency options for drought resilience: a collaborative approach for regional water utilities

JETHRO LAIDLAW, WATER EFFICIENCY MANAGER, NSW DCCEW

Delivering Water Security on the Eyre Peninsula: Lessons from Response Plan Implementation

NICOLE ARBON, WATER EFFICIENCY SPECIALIST, SA WATER

How low can you go? Exploring water use benchmarks, drought resilience and water restriction regimes for water savings and carrying capacity impacts on sporting fields

PAUL LAMBLE, DIRECTOR, PEAK WATER CONSULTING

Enabling impact through standards, policy and regulation

Benchmarking what matters: Using performance ratings and real-time data to drive water efficiency outcomes

RON PULIDO, NABERS

Data centres – embedding water efficiency in our newest customer cohort

DANIELLE FRANCIS, MANAGER CUSTOMER AND POLICY, WSAA & ANDREW BUCHEL, SECTOR LEAD, NABERS

Advanced in-property Greywater Recycling Systems: Regulatory Pathways, Installation Challenges and Water Efficiency Potential in Australia

TONY ROBINSON, WATER EFFICIENCY, SYDNEY WATER

11:45 AM
1:00 PM

1:00 PM
2:00 PM

Lunch

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Harnessing Data, Smart Technologies and Insights

Understanding water use and efficiency savings potential from residential evaporative cooling

YOHAN KIM, INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

Derisking digital water metering. What the energy sector taught us

INGE DIAMOND & DANIEL ARIF, INTELLIHUB

Harnessing Data to Stop the Drips: How Smart Metering is Transforming Customer Water Efficiency

JESSIE COCHRANE, WATER CORPORATION

From Data to Action: Using Smart Meter Analytics to Detect Leaks and Drive Water Efficiency

BEN SWAIN, SYDNEY WATER

The Utility Demand Forecasting and Options Model: Harnessing multiple data sources for detailed water demand forecasting

ANDREA TURNER, ISF

Increasing uptake of efficient products through information, incentives and innovation

Improving customer knowledge through Smart Metering

ALANA JONES, SOUTH EAST WATER

From Projects to Continuous Water Management: The Next Frontier in Water Efficiency

ANDREW HINCHLIFFE, NPS

Water efficiency through an energy-carbon lens: Innovative levers to influence utilities, government and end-users

REBECCA HALL, UQ

2:00 PM
3:15 PM

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TUESDAY, 13 OCTOBER, 2026
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3:15 PM
3:45 PM

Afternoon Tea

3:45 PM
5:00 PM

Afternoon Plenary and Panel Discussion

Beyond Education: Do Rebates and Incentives Still Deliver Water Savings?

PANEL DISCUSSION FACILITATED BY ERIN CINI, WSAA

ANDREA TURNER, ISF

JETHRO LAIDLAW, WATER EFFICIENCY MANAGER, NSW DCCEEW

KIRRALEE DONOVAN, WATER SUSTAINABILITY LEAD, ROUS COUNTY COUNCIL

GAVIN JONES, HUNTER INDUSTRIES

6:00 PM
9:30 PM

Water Night: Networking Dinner and Drinks

An evening of drinks, dinner and networking, launching the Water Night research - 'Weathering the Dry - are Australians ready for the Super El Nino' plus Smart Drop Certified Excellence Awards recognising innovation in water-efficient products.

HOSTED BY TWC AMBASSADOR, COSTA GEORGIADIS

Event notes

Registration opens from 8:15 am.

Aerial Function Centre, Level 7, UTS Building 10. Enter via 235 Jones Street, Ultimo and take the lift to Level 7.

Event signage and staff will be available to help with directions.

Thank you to our partners

Smart Water Connect is made possible with the support of our sponsors, speakers and sector partners.

Thank you for helping bring together a national, cross-sector conversation on practical water efficiency action.

thewaterconservancy.org/smart-water-connect/

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