

# Smart Water Connect Program

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

8:30 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, HARC & GUENTER HAUBER-DAVIDSON, UTILIOS**

### Driving Community Engagement and Behaviour Change

SESSION SPONSOR **WATER NIGHT**

A curriculum in motion:  
Mobilising water education  
across communities

**RYAN BESGROVE, SYDNEY WATER**

The rise of wellness as a water  
security challenge

**EMMA STEWART, DEECA**

The Water Guardians:  
Educating the next generation  
for healthy communities

**KATE BEARD, TASWATER**

### Non-residential water efficiency solutions

SESSION SPONSOR **NPSO**

Expanding the WELS scheme  
into non-residential products

**TERESA MCMAUGH, WELS**

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

**SANDRA HALL, WSAP**

\$4M in sustainability savings  
within the tourism sector

**RYAN DILLON & KIRRALEE  
DONOVAN, WEBSTERS GROUP  
AND ROUS**

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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, NSW DCCEEW**

11:45 AM  
1:00 PM

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

**NICOLE ARBON, 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, PEAK WATER CONSULTING**

### Increasing uptake of efficient products through information, incentives and innovation

Canine Assisted Leak Detection: An Applied Innovation Partnership with the Central NSW Joint Organisation, Training, Deploying and Sustaining a Working Detection Dog Capability for Regional Water Loss Reduction

**NICOLE HARVEY, CUTTING EDGE CANINE**

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**

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**

## 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, WSAA**

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

**TONY ROBINSON, SYDNEY WATER**

2:00 PM  
3:15 PM

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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 CHRIS PHILPOT, TWC

6:00 PM  
9:30 PM

## Water Night: Networking Dinner and Drinks

An evening of drinks, dinner and networking, with the Smart Drop Certified Excellence Awards recognising innovation in water-efficient products.

HOSTED BY TWC AMBASSADOR, COSTA GEORGIADIS

### Event notes

Registration opens from 8:30 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/](https://thewaterconservancy.org/smart-water-connect/)

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