

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

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

Improving customer
knowledge through Smart
Metering

ALANA JONES, SOUTH EAST WATER

11:45 AM
1:00 PM

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

NICOLE ARBON, SA WATER

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

ANDREW HINCHLIFFE, NPS

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**

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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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 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/

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