

15 September 2009

Mr Patrick O'Connor  
Chairman  
Water Corporation  
PO Box 100  
LEEDERVILLE WA 6902

Dear Patrick

As Chair of the Water Forever Science Panel I am pleased to report to the Water Corporation Board that the Science Panel has now completed the task of independently reviewing the assumptions, inputs and processes used by Water Corporation to complete *Water Forever: the 50 year plan for sustainable water and wastewater services to Perth and surrounds*.

It was my great pleasure to chair the Water Forever Science Panel and other Members of the panel were:

- Professor Robert Harvey, Board Member Water Corporation and Executive Dean at Edith Cowan University
- Dr Tom Hatton, Director, Water for a Healthy Country, CSIRO
- Dr John Marsden, Director, Marsden Jacob Associates
- Dr Jenny Pope, Director, Integral Sustainability

The Water Forever Science Panel met in May and December 2008 and several teleconferences were convened to discuss matters throughout the preparation of *Water Forever*. The final meeting of the Water Forever Science Panel was held on 4 August 2009 to review the comments and submissions received from the community and key stakeholders following the release of *Water Forever: Directions for Our Water Future*.

The members of the Water Forever Science Panel have extensive experience in water resource management all over Australia and bring to this process expertise in the following areas:

- Water resource planning including the development of a portfolio approach to mitigate climate risks
- Adaptation to climate change
- Decision making in uncertainty
- Real option analysis
- Cost benefit analysis
- Sustainability assessment
- Ecological and environmental assessment
- Community and stakeholder consultation
- Experience in operating and managing water utilities

The Water Forever Science Panel undertook a thorough and methodical review of the planning process undertaken by the Water Corporation including:

- Validity of underlying assumptions particularly on the demand and supply sides
- The robustness of the sustainability assessment framework
- The appropriateness of future scenarios
- The extent to which risk have been factored into options
- Reviewing the comments received during the community and stakeholder consultation process to ensure that these comments have been incorporated into the final document or appropriately dealt with.

At the final meeting of the Water Forever Science Panel members expressed what a privilege and honour it was to contribute to water supply and demand management planning for Perth and surrounds for the next 50 years. Given the drying climate and Perth's rapidly growing population nothing could be more important than having a robust long term water plan.

As panel members we feel as though we have been able to add value to the process and also bring different views and broader perspectives which has resulted in what we believe to be one of the most thorough water resource planning projects from technical, sustainability and stakeholder engagement perspectives.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the professional approach adopted to the preparation of this plan by Water Corporation staff. The panel members were impressed with their responsiveness, technical expertise and passion for pursuing improved water outcomes for Perth and surrounds.

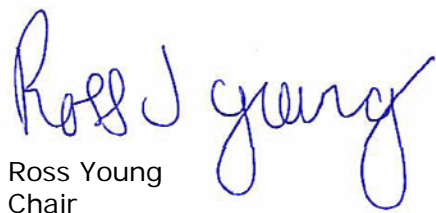
The Water Forever Science Panel still believes the biggest risk to *Water Forever* not delivering its stated outcomes is in failing to meet water consumption reduction targets. Improving water efficiency is the foundation upon which the entire document is built. In this context we urge you and your Board to monitor progress in this area closely and ensure that water efficiency programs aimed at reducing water use and increasing water recycling are adequately funded to ensure the water consumption reduction targets are met.

Nationally and increasingly so internationally, Water Corporation has a reputation of being at the forefront of urban water planning, as the south west of Western Australia has been the 'canary in the coal mine' in relation to the impacts of climate change on water resources. As climate change touches all aspects of urban water management, the Water Forever Science Panel believes that the measures and initiatives contained in *Water Forever* will enhance Western Australia's reputation as being at the cutting edge of adaptation to climate change and managing climate risks in a period of great uncertainty.

Finally, I would like to thank the other panel members who were always diligent in assessing options and bringing their wealth of experience to the table.

The panel commends *Water Forever* to the Water Corporation Board for publication.

Yours sincerely



Ross Young  
Chair  
Water Forever Science Panel