

# Water Forever South West

15 October 2013

## Water Reference Panel

The Water Corporation has announced the members of its Water Reference Panel who will play an integral role in the preparation of *Water Forever: South West*, a 50-year plan for water supply services. The Water Reference Panel will provide independent advice to the Water Corporation on the plan that will explore the themes of reducing water use, developing new sources and increasing water recycling.

Membership of the panel has been cast to include industry leaders, experts and regional representations from a range of backgrounds.

Members include:

### **Barry Oates — Secretary/Treasurer, GeoCatch**

Mr Oates is a long time Busselton resident and has been a community member since the inception of GeoCatch in 1997, holding the position of inaugural Chair for the Council. He has been a dairy farmer for over 50 years and his dedication has earned him an OAM in 2006 for services to the Dairy Industry, catchment management and water resource management. He is actively involved in the Busselton Wildflower Exhibition and has previously advised Government as chair of the community reference group for the Department of Water's Whicher Resource Management Committee.

### **Dr Don McFarlane — Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO**


Dr McFarlane has a long history in water resource management with a particular focus on groundwater. He is the flagship co-ordinator for Western Australia of the Water for a Healthy Country Project and was the project lead for the "South West Sustainable Yields" project which looked at impacts of climate change on water resources in the south west of Western Australia. He is also involved with the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence researching recycling wastewater with a focus on Managed Aquifer Recharge.

### **Dr John Marsden — Director, Marsden Jacobs and Associates**

Dr Marsden has extensive experience in providing both strategic and detailed advice to water and other utilities on economic regulation, governance, pricing, property rights and environmental and natural resource economics. Dr Marsden was part of the Perth Water Forever project which was internationally acclaimed for progressing strategic water plans.

### **Dr Libby Mattiske — Managing Director, Mattiske Consulting**

Dr Mattiske has more than 30 years' experience in flora and vegetation surveys and vegetation monitoring programs in Western Australia; including assessing trends in ecosystems in response to climate changes. She has been involved with both state and federal State of Environment committees and is a former member and deputy chairman of the Western Australian National



Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority. She is also a former member of the Australian Heritage Council.

**Mr Adam Lovell – Executive Director, Water Services Association of Australia**

WSAA is the peak body for the urban water industry and its members provide water services to 16 million Australians. Mr Lovell has led national water utility strategy and policy development in areas including climate change adaptation and mitigation, water efficiency, water quality and regulation, and sustainability planning, analysis and reporting. Originally from Sydney Water, Mr Lovell has a solid understanding of emerging trends in the water sector both nationally and internationally.

The panel has been convened by Mr Ashley Vincent – General Manager, Planning and Capability Water Corporation.

“I’m excited that such excellent calibre candidates are happy to be involved with this water plan. They bring an additional wealth of experience to the project and I look forward to their input.” Mr Vincent said.

“In particular I thank Barry Oates, a long-time South West resident, for agreeing to chair the Panel.”

The role of the panel is to provide independent advice to the Water Corporation on:

- Identifying future trends that should be considered;
- Review planning assumptions such as climate, population growth and the sustainability assessment; and
- Community feedback and water source proposals.

They will also be asked to review the draft strategy and endorse the final plan.

The panel will meet at intervals throughout the project, commencing in late October 2013 with project completion due for July 2014.