

# Water Reform in Australia Is the Journey Over?



You are invited to attend the Australian Rivers Institute, Peter Cullen Public Lecture, where ABC's Bernie Hobbs will moderate a high-powered panel discussion on Australia's water policy and knowledge needs.

Monday, October 10, 2016, 6.30-7.30pm  
Great Hall Quadrant 2, Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre

From 2004, Australian governments invested **over 13 billion dollars** in water reforms designed to meet the challenges of rising water demands, ageing water infrastructure, inefficient water use and uncertain water rights.

Much has been achieved in this time, especially through the National Water Initiative. For example: improved water planning, which involved science, Indigenous and community representatives; increased water trade; a nationally consistent approach to compliance and enforcement; and statutory protection of environment water. Over the past decade we have gained greater knowledge about how much water we have, where it is, what its condition is, who controls it and who is using it.

## Have we now finished the water reform process?

In 2010, Land & Water Australia, a major funder of water research, was discontinued, and last year, the National Water Commission ended after 10 years of overseeing the national water reform process.

## But what about the new challenges we are facing?

Many Australian cities are battling to provide high quality water security. People in rural areas are alarmed about the possible effects of mining, oil and gas extraction on water. Development in the north of Australia depends on a sustainable supply of water. And are we investing enough to address knowledge gaps and monitor our progress in water reform?

This public special lecture is dedicated to the memory of visionary water scientist, Professor Peter Cullen AO FTSE. The lecture provides a forum to bring together scientists and policy makers to discuss the priority knowledge needs for ensuring sustainable management of our water resources.

Panel members include:

**Ms Leith Bouly**, Chair, SunWater Ltd, Centre for Excellence for Water Recycling and board member of Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Isis Mill and CRC for Water Sensitive Cities, and former Chair of the National Water Commission;

**Hon Karlene Maywald**, former South Australian Water Minister for the River Murray and Minister for Water Security, and former Chair of the National Water Commission;

**Mr David Parker**, Deputy-Secretary for Water, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;

**Professor John Thwaites**, Professorial Fellow at Monash University, Chair of ClimateWorks Australia and the Monash Sustainability Institute, Chair of Melbourne Water, Chair of the Peter Cullen Water and Environment Trust and former Deputy Premier and Water Minister, Victoria;

**Mr Seamus Parker**, Executive Director, Client Advisory, Queensland Treasury Corporation and winner of the Churchill Fellowship in 2001 for International Water Law, Policy, and Business.

CONGRESS DELEGATES, SCIENTISTS, POLICYMAKERS AND INTERESTED PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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# Panel members



## **Ms LEITH BOULLY**

Leith has been involved in the water industry for over 30 years in a wide range of roles. She is currently Chairman of SunWater Ltd, Center of Excellence for Water Recycling and board member of Murrumbidgee Irrigation, Isis Mill and CRC for Water Sensitive Cities. She is an Adjunct Professor with the Global Change Institute at UQ and has tertiary qualifications in science and business. Previous roles include National Water Commission, Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Advisory Council Community Advisory Committee, and founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists.

## **HON KARLENE MAYWALD**

Karlene has extensive experience in the area of water policy development and reform across irrigation, environmental and urban sectors. She was elected as the Member for Chaffey to the House of Assembly in the South Australian Parliament between 1997 and 2010. Karlene served as a Cabinet Minister from July 2004 until March 2010, where her portfolio included: The River Murray, Water Security, Small Business, Regional Development, Consumer Affairs, Science and Information Economy, and Assisting the Minister for Industry and Trade. Karlene chaired the National Water Commission between 2012-2015. She is currently managing Director of Maywald Consultants, Chair of the International Centre of Excellence for Water Resource Management, a Board Member of SA Water and holds a number of other Board positions.



## **Mr DAVID PARKER, OA**

David is Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. David has particular responsibility for Water and the Department's economic and scientific research arm, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES). With a career spanning more than 25 years with Treasury, David has worked on financial sector liberalisation, tax reform, macroeconomic forecasting and policy, competition policy, energy policy and international economic issues. More recently within the Environment Department at various points he also oversaw Water, Antarctica and National Parks as well elements of Climate Change policy.

## **PROFESSOR JOHN THWAITES**

John is Professorial Fellow, Monash University, and Chair of ClimateWorks Australia and the Monash Sustainability Institute. John is also the Chair of Melbourne Water, which is responsible for Melbourne's water supply and sewerage treatment and the rivers and catchment around Melbourne. John chairs the Peter Cullen Water and Environment Trust and is a director of the Australian Green Building Council. John is a Co-Chair of the Leadership Council of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. John has provided extensive advice to the Australian, state and local governments on environmental and water issues. John Thwaites was Deputy Premier of Victoria from 1999 until his retirement in 2007.



## **Mr SEAMUS PARKER**

Seamus is Executive Director, Client Advisory, Queensland Treasury Corporation. Seamus has 25 years' experience in delivering high quality policy, analytical, negotiation and commercial advice and managing teams in different government service delivery areas. His area of knowledge and expertise is in water industry; governance and financial management of departments, statutory bodies and GOCs; Cabinet and whole of government policy development; health, social and criminal justice policy; government land and property; legal policy and legislative development; institutional reforms and corporatisation of government businesses; high level stakeholder consultation; intergovernmental relations and policy negotiation processes. Seamus won the Churchill Fellow award in 2002 for International water law, policy and businesses.

## Contact info



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