

# VOICES FOR THE BUSH

WATER FOR REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

This national conference will bring together decision makers, policy makers, water utilities, services providers, government agencies, consultants and suppliers to share knowledge for developing, maintaining and operating smaller water supplies for Indigenous communities, local governments and remote operations in regional, remote and rural Australia.

Proudly hosted by AWA and WSAA in Alice Springs, the conference will provide an opportunity to identify new and emerging solutions, technologies and practices and address the importance of community engagement and local capacity development associated with smaller water supplies. The conference will explore practical and pragmatic solutions for regional and rural water systems and include consideration of wastewater, 'fit for purpose' water, water quality management, water security, impacts of Covid-19, climate change, public and environmental health, Government funding and policies, water stories and education themes.

This two-day conference in the centre of Australia will shine a light on the importance of sustainability of regional water supply systems and provide an excellent opportunity to explore the many attractions of one of Australia's iconic towns. We encourage submissions of abstracts for the conference on this important topic.

**THURSDAY  
7 APRIL**

Closing date for  
submissions



## Suggested Conference Topics

### Voices From The Bush

- First Nations and Indigenous perspectives
- Lessons learnt from Australia and around the world
- Meaningful customer and stakeholder engagement
- Improving livability on Country
- Cultural, social and environmental value of water

### Public and Environmental Health

- Impact of regulatory environment on supply of safe water and wastewater treatment
- Water quality and health impacts
- Water safety plans
- Emergency response and extreme events
- Communication and education around water quality

### Technology and Innovation

- Fit for purpose technologies and solutions (water and wastewater)
- Water security and quality innovations
- Treatment systems (point of use or community based)
- Monitoring and measuring for water quality and security
- Alternative water supplies (e.g. demand management, stormwater and recycled water)
- Asset management

### Industry Challenges and Solutions

- Technical, logistical and financial support for remote locations
- Partnership and collaboration examples and opportunities
- Climate change impacts
- Sustainability of delivery models and technologies
- Protecting sources and catchments

# VOICES FOR THE BUSH

WATER FOR REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### Driving Change Through Governance, Funding and Policy

- Water policy, regulation, law and economics
- Linkage to broader policy goals (e.g. Closing the Gap, SDGs and WASH)
- Jurisdictional operating models
- Cross sector relationships and collaboration
- Advocacy and challenging the status quo

### Water Education

- Water literacy
- Mentoring and professional development
- Lessons learnt – personal or professional
- Capacity Development – staffing and skills development/training
- Cross-cultural training for water quality wins
- Water stories

### Wildcard

We have included a Wildcard theme for any submissions that don't quite fit under any of the above topics. It's submissions like these that remind us of the need to think outside the box to solve our water challenges.



### Who should submit abstracts?

The conference is your opportunity to share your knowledge with the rest of the water sector.

If you are able to contribute to the topics and themes from a direct or indirect perspective or have an innovative approach to some of these or other issues, submit your abstract.

There is consideration for all disciplines and for persons from all levels in an organisation to share their knowledge to the industry.



### Submitting abstracts

Abstracts for papers should contain a brief introduction, methodology, results and conclusion. Please use the template available and submit your abstract on the event webpage: [https://www.awa.asn.au/upcoming-events/voices\\_for\\_the\\_bush\\_2022](https://www.awa.asn.au/upcoming-events/voices_for_the_bush_2022).

**Closing date for submission of abstracts is Thursday 7 April.**



### Abstract Submission Guidelines

- You may submit more than one abstract
- Abstracts are to be no longer than 400 words and no more than 1 page
- Must be submitted electronically
- Must be submitted in PDF format using the template provided
- Presenters must register for the conference (discounted speaker rate)
- If accepted to deliver an oral presentation you will have the option provide a full paper
- By submitting you give permission for your abstract to be considered for publication in the Association's e-Journal
- By submitting you also give permission for your abstract, paper and presentation to be made available to delegates via the conference platform and website download

The abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Organising Committee. Selection will be based on:

- Relationship and significance to the conference theme
- Relevance to the industry
- Appeal to a broad audience
- Originality
- Technical content

Proof of client endorsement of abstracts and final papers will be required before acceptance of papers citing project references to limit overt commercial/marketing messages.

Presentation time allocation during the conference will be 20 minutes, inclusive of question time. We also encourage submissions for Posters to be displayed in the Conference Foyer.



### Important Dates

#### Thursday 7 April

Abstract deadline, 5pm AEST

#### Friday 6 May

Notification of acceptance

#### Friday 3 June

Speaker Registration Deadline

#### Tuesday 2 August

Final presentation due