



24 July 2020

Mr Josh Teague  
Presiding Member  
Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament of South Australia  
Parliament House  
North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000

Dear Mr Teague

### INQUIRY INTO URBAN GREEN SPACES

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the Parliament of South Australia's inquiry into urban green spaces.

Liveable, sustainable and productive cities and regions are critical to our economic wellbeing and quality of life and enhancing liveability outcomes – in particular improved health outcomes – for the community is vital.

Investing in water-enabled green and blue infrastructure can deliver benefits to physical and mental health by making our communities cooler, healthier and more attractive places to live, work and play.

Our recent report [\*Blue + green = liveability: the value of water to liveable communities\*](#) (copy attached) seeks to increase understanding and explain how the urban water industry enables broader liveability outcomes including contributing to green and blue infrastructure to deliver benefits to physical and mental health by making communities cooler, healthier and more attractive places to live, work and play.

Health benefits can be up to \$94/person/day in a greenfield development built with an integrated water management approach. Health benefits include improved physical and mental health, air quality and urban cooling. This is in addition to the provision of safe, secure and affordable drinking water and wastewater services.

However, while planning for green and blue infrastructure can start to unlock improved liveability outcomes there are often no clear pathways to deliver and fund these initiatives.

We call on the South Australian and local governments to collaborate with the urban water industry and take leadership to enable green and blue infrastructure to deliver liveability outcomes for cities and regions by:

- Harnessing the full water cycle with all water supply options on the table and by coordinating the incorporation of stormwater

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- Integrating our approach to planning
- Implementing an effective framework for measuring health and liveability benefits
- Creating new funding and financing models for green and blue infrastructure as social infrastructure.

We believe that a bold, innovative and integrated approach to planning and service delivery is required.

Our [\*Next Gen Urban Water: The role of urban water in vibrant and prosperous communities\*](#) report (copy attached) includes 20 case studies highlighting the contribution of urban water to vibrant and prosperous communities, including two case studies (5 and 18) that focus on SA Water.

We acknowledge the work of our member SA Water as a leader in its focus on liveable communities. SA Water seeks to improve the lives of South Australian through innovative outdoor use, with programs including residential cooling, public space cooling, smart irrigation, liveable remote communities and airport cooling. SA Water work collaboratively with public and private sector partners to improve liveability through water enabled urban green spaces.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, mobile 0417 211 319 or email [adam.lovell@wsaa.asn.au](mailto:adam.lovell@wsaa.asn.au).

Kind regards



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