

## **National Water Commission message for the launch of the international water stewardship standard**

The National Water Commission recognises that water stewardship is a partnership between all those who have an interest in good water management. Since my predecessor Ken Matthews spoke at the inaugural water stewardship forum in 2006, the National Water Commission has supported the roles that Water Stewardship Australia and the Alliance for Water Stewardship play in achieving our shared goals.

Water policy frameworks such as Australia's National Water Initiative (NWI) set parameters to optimise economic, social and environmental outcomes associated with both urban and rural water. Ten years after governments agreed to its principles in 2004, the NWI has delivered tangible benefits to individual water users, to communities and to the environment. That success is due not only to bipartisan support from governments, but has also been realised through the broader water stewardship actions of private sector interests and individuals.

The National Water Commission congratulates Water Stewardship Australia and the Alliance for Water Stewardship on the release of the international water stewardship standard. We share their enthusiasm for the water stewardship concept and look forward to it becoming even more widely adopted. In a world increasingly worried about the security of water resources, water stewardship is not just the business of governments. Creation of globally recognised water stewardship standards and certification procedures will encourage all water users to adopt practices that are environmentally sustainable, socially beneficial and economically productive.

Karlene Maywald

Chair, National Water Commission