



Water Reform

A National Consumer Forum

The Federal Government *Water for the Future* program involves significant national policy development and investment. Policy makers are changing our understanding of water as a public and essential service to water as a commodity. Consumer advocates have recognised the need for greater consumer engagement in decision making on water policy and a strong voice in representing consumers, including low income and disadvantaged households and vulnerable communities, as policy and programs are developed. This forum aims to bring together consumer, welfare and environmental advocates to develop a greater understanding of national water reform in Australia and build an approach to water policy in the interests of consumers.

Program

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome: Why this forum? An overview of the day, aims and outcomes

Tony Westmore, Senior Policy Officer, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

9:15 What's going on now? National reform initiatives and processes

Jo Benvenuti, Executive Officer, Consumer Utilities Advocacy Centre (CUAC)

9:45 National water reform – impacts for consumers

Mark Ludbrooke, Senior Policy Officer, Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

Liz McAloon and Wayne Chamley, Project Officers, Watermark Australia

10:15 National water reform – impacts for the environment

Tim Stubbs, Policy Analyst, The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists

Alan Gregory, Research Scientist, Sustainable Ecosystems, CSIRO

10:45 Break

11:15 Panel: consumers and environment: questions and discussion

12:15 Issues in reform policy

Ross Martin, General Manager, National Water Commission (NWC)

1:00 Lunch

1:45 Water For the Future Program

Ian Robinson, First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)

2:30 Models for engagement and advocacy

Gordon Renouf, Director Policy and Campaigns, CHOICE

3:15. Break

3:45 Where to from here? Panel and discussion

4:30 Close

Water Reform – A National Consumer Forum is an initiative of consumer, welfare and environmental organisations concerned with increasing community understanding of proposals for national water reform and ensuring that consumers are represented in public policy processes.

ACOSS: www.acoss.org.au CUAC: www.cuac.org.au PIAC: www.piac.asn.au

Venue: Karstens at CQ, 123 Queen Street, Melbourne

Date: Friday 03 July 2009 Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

The cost of registration is \$85.00 per person (so that we can recover actual costs). However, organisations unable to meet this expense can request a waiver of the fee.

Please register by 1 July.

Register online at acoss.org.au, or by email to al@acoss.org.au or see registration form next page.

For further information about the forum please contact

Jo Benvenuti on 03 9639 7600 Tony Westmore at ACOSS on 02 9310 6207.

Water Reform – A National Consumer Forum Registration Form

Karstens at CQ, 123 Queen Street, Melbourne

Friday 03 July 2009 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Register online at acoss.org.au, or by email to events@acoss.org.au with details below, or print this form and return by fax or post. Places are limited. Please register right away.

This form serves as a tax invoice when payment is made. Prices quoted include GST. Receipts are issued for all payments. Australian Council of Social Service ACOSS ABN: 72 757 927 533

Please complete one form for each participant. ** indicates required information.

Personal details

Title: Mr Ms Dr Other

Name: **

E-mail: **

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

Phone:

Fax:

Dietary/other requirements:.....

Payment details: the organisations presenting this Forum are seeking cost recovery for your participation. If your organisation is not able to meet this expense, please tick the first box below. Otherwise please indicate your preferred method of payment.

- Please waive the registration fee **OR**
- Cheque payable to Australian Council of Social Service **OR**
- Direct deposit to: ACOSS BSB 062-033 Account: 901648 Reference: Organisation or Surname **OR**
- Visa MasterCard Amex

Card no: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ Amount: \$85

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Thanks for your interest. If you have questions or comments about the program, please call Jo Benvenuti at CUAC on 03 9369 7600 or Tony Westmore at ACOSS on 02 9310 6207.

We will confirm your registration by email or by fax if you do not provide an email address.

Payment must be made in advance of the event.

Please direct inquiries to events@acoss.org.au

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

Email: events@acoss.org.au Web: www.acoss.org.au

Phone: 02 9310 6200 Fax: 02 9310 4822

Post: Locked Bag 4777, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012