

URBAN WATER

Why Aither

Background

Services

Experience

Why Aither

Aither delivers a range of tailored solutions across the urban water sector from high-level policy and regulatory analysis and advice, to site-specific economic appraisals of infrastructure investments.



Excellent understanding of the sector – including industry and government experience.

We have intimate knowledge of how the sector operates and the institutional arrangements across Australia. We know what's required to ensure efficient and effective policy, deliver valued services, and continue to protect public health and environmental outcomes.



Well-recognised record of providing robust analysis and practical advice.

Aither is recognised by decision makers for providing high-quality advice that meets the needs of urban water businesses, regulators, industry bodies and governments.



Options that maximise public and private benefits while minimising costs.

We know the policy and economics of water service solutions, and how to ensure efficient investment and sustainable recovery of costs. This allows us to identify options that better meet the needs of customers and communities.



We understand the risks presented by a changing climate.

We recognise the risks facing the sector, and the complexities of mitigating potential impacts. We can deliver supply and demand strategies that achieve long-term water security at lowest economic, social and environmental cost.

Background

Australia's urban water sector has changed substantially over the past decade. While large investments have enabled much of urban Australia to achieve water security, this has come at substantial cost, and has not always reflected customer or community preferences.

Emphasis in the sector is now focused on delivering value to customers through efficient service provision and economic reform. At the same time, the sector is grappling with the challenges associated with ensuring the sustainability of urban water services into the future.

Alternative water supply options and treatment approaches are playing an increasingly important role in this regard. It is important that these options are considered in relation to cost effectiveness and efficiency, their ability to deliver environmental outcomes, and to improve urban amenity and liveability.

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- Undertaking economic and financial cost-benefit analysis
- Business case development and provision of investment advice
- Supply and demand planning, modelling and forecasting
- Designing and reviewing policy, programs and regulation
- Advising on institutional design
- Undertaking economic modelling and non-market valuation
- Advising on pricing and tariff design, and undertaking assessments
- Providing advice on independent economic regulation design and implementation
- Developing risk assessments and mitigation strategies

Selected project experience

Best practice water management in the National Capital Estate (National Capital Authority): Aither analysed water sources, use and costs across the National Capital Estate, and identified opportunities to implement integrated water management approaches by sourcing more fit for purpose and lower cost water for irrigation purposes.

Urban water information products and services (Bureau of Meteorology): Aither assessed current urban water information products and services offered by the Bureau based on an assessment of user needs, and identified alternatives more focused on users and value.

Urban water reform in Australia – Future directions (National Water Commission): Aither team members led this investigation into urban water reform in 2011, which considered whether the sector's institutional and policy settings were sufficient to ensure current and future performance, and recommended a series of nationally applicable reforms.

Financial analysis of rainwater tanks (New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage): Aither analysed the costs and benefits of rainwater tanks for households and developers based on a range of scenarios. The analysis considered the potential for development scale roll out of rainwater tanks to reduce the cost of water and stormwater infrastructure.

Review of Hunter Water pricing model (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal): Aither undertook a quality assurance review of the logic and functions of IPART's regulatory pricing model for Hunter Water Corporation – including the building blocks (cost) model, tariffs and bill estimates.

Western Treatment Plant – land use economic evaluation (Melbourne Water): Aither undertook a cost - benefit analysis of options to increase the economic, social and environmental value of Melbourne's Western Treatment Plant. Options included agriculture, renewable energy and ecotourism.