



**Mr Gavin Hanlon
Deputy Director General
DPI Water
Locked Bag 5123
Parramatta NSW 2124**

Dear Mr Hanlon

FUNDING OF THE ABORIGINAL WATER INITIATIVE

The Australian chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) wishes to express its support for continued funding of the Aboriginal Water Initiative (AWI).

The mission of the IAH is to *'further the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world'*. Fundamental to the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater is effective engagement with stakeholders who benefit from groundwater in water resource planning.

The IAH strongly supports the AWI objective to *'ensure there is ongoing effective state-wide and regional engagement with Aboriginal communities in water sharing plans'*. Inclusion of aboriginal requirements into water planning has an important role to play in overall system management. In Australia we are fortunate to have strong systems in place for effective water planning. We believe the AWI is an important program to provide the best knowledge to inform water management.

The IAH Australian chapter strongly supports the continuation of the Aboriginal Water Initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Chris McAuley

President

International Association of

Hydrogeologist Australian Chapter

30 September, 2015