

## Utility Nominee | Abigail Morrow, Hunter Water



I have 10 years' experience in the Australian water sector, with expertise in drinking water, wastewater, recycled water, rainwater and stormwater. As Team Leader Science and Research at Hunter Water, I am responsible for our R&D program and providing scientific advice across the organisation. I completed a PhD on rainwater quality in 2011 and will complete my MBA in December 2021. With my academic background and water industry experience, I have excellent research knowledge and networks. My current leadership role and MBA have given me a broader understanding of corporate governance, strategic management, finance and marketing to complement my technical background. I am passionate about research and collaboration. I work with the tertiary education sector to improve pathways between undergraduate degrees and our industry and was recently successful in establishing a Hunter Water – Uni of Newcastle (UoN) Women in STEM scholarship. I teach into water science and resource management courses at UoN and supervise and mentor undergraduate and postgraduate students working on industry relevant projects, as a conjoint Senior Lecturer. I value the role that Water Research Australia plays in the global water sector and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success of the BIG Team.

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### Nominee response to essential criteria

#### *Corporate governance experience*

I have some experience with corporate governance relating to Hunter Water's requirements under our operating licence and our memorandum of understanding with our Health regulator, and experience with Board Committees at Hunter Water. I have also gained a working knowledge of the theoretical aspects of corporate governance, through studying for my MBA.

#### *Accounting Experience*

I have some experience with finance through my role as a team leader with responsibility for the R&D budget at Hunter Water and also have some knowledge gained through successful completion of a course on financial and management accounting as part of my MBA.

#### *Experience gained in industry, research or regulation relating to the Australian water sector, water recycling and wastewater management*

I have 10 years' experience in the Australian water sector, with expertise in drinking water, wastewater, recycled water, rainwater and stormwater. I am currently employed as Team Leader Science and Research at Hunter Water. In this role I am responsible for facilitating the provision of scientific advice and assistance across the organisation, managing the R&D budget and implementing the R&D strategy. My PhD, which focused on Variations in Inorganic and Organic Composition of Roof-Harvested Rainwater and was sponsored by BlueScope Water, was awarded in 2012. I will complete my MBA, sponsored by Hunter Water and University of Newcastle (UoN) as a Women in MBA (WiMBA) Scholar, in December 2021.

### Nominee response to desirable characteristics

#### *Research, education and training for water industry*

I have extensive experience in research in the water sector, having completed a PhD in this area followed by 10 years' at Hunter Water where I have initiated and managed a large number of research projects of varying sizes. I have sought out opportunities to work with the tertiary education sector in collaborations to improve

*Items highlighted in blue denote nominee self-responses to high priority gaps as identified by the WaterRA Board for 2021*

the water industry relevant content taught in undergraduate science and environmental science degrees, working to improve pathways between undergraduate degrees, industry placement, postgraduate research and paid employment. I was recently successful in establishing a Hunter Water – UoN Women in STEM scholarship, to encourage women to pursue careers in science in the water industry. I teach into a 3000-level subject at UoN, which I helped to develop, on Advanced Water Science and Resource Management and I act in an academic supervisory capacity for Honours, Masters and PhD level research students working on water industry relevant projects, in my role as a conjoint Senior Lecturer at UoN.

### *Online learning/distance education*

I am very familiar with both sides of the distance education/online learning experience. I have delivered substantial content to undergraduate science and environmental science students, as part of the Advanced Water Science and Resource Management course I helped to develop and teach into each year. I received excellent feedback from student evaluation surveys each year I have been involved in this course. I have also completed two thirds of my MBA online over the past two years and am therefore familiar with the challenges of engaging with students in an online environment and am passionate about finding different ways to draw students in and create interactive learning environments during remote learning.