

FORM TITLE - Request for Project Funding – Emerging Contaminants within a catchment – The State of Science in 2018

Working title:

Emerging Contaminants within a catchment – The State of Science for Australia in 2018

Problem statement:

The problem lies in understanding the nature of future contaminants, the objective therefore is to provide a state-of-the-knowledge document on the emerging contaminants within a catchment.

Background/ Description:

WaterRA convened a workshop in December 2017 of interested members on the topic of catchment management. The workshop summary (attached) details a number of key themes and priorities some of which are addressed below.

In Australia, it is critical that the water industry take the opportunity now to advance the sector's (utilities, regulators, policy makers) and communities' collective knowledge of emerging contaminants and future planning options can be progressed. Water utilities are becoming increasingly aware that an understanding of emerging contaminants is needed to develop an industry watching brief on emerging issues.

At the workshop, there was consensus that an industry watching brief detailing 'national pollutants of concern' and information detailing how to keep on top of emerging contaminants and their treatability, through building better links between agricultural companies and utilities, understanding crop/chemical rotation and resistance of particular chemicals. This should also identify new risks from the agricultural industry identifying new chemicals, areas of sensitivity and what environmental characteristics may create a high risk area. It was also brought to attention that 'normal' and 'extreme' conditions be considered for operations and accounting for vulnerability.

Currently, there is no summary report available in Australia to provide regulators and policy makers with up-to-date information to support evidence-based consideration of emerging contaminant risks and management. This project would seek to summarise the work done in Australia in recent years as well as review a repository of fact sheets available on emerging chemical and microbial contaminants (such as PFAS, microplastics etc.). By providing information on the treatability of new and emerging contaminants, further research could be identified within the production of the report.

Objectives:

The objective of this project is to summarise the level of knowledge regarding emerging contaminants in Australia. This is seen as being of national interest and would provide utilities across Australia with a level understanding of emerging contaminants, both current and potential, and keep a watching brief on emerging issues. It would include various elements such as:

- describe the current knowledge within Australia,
- identify knowledge or research gaps,
- outline the resources available for treatment of contaminants within Australian water sector,
- summarise the current regulatory and policy environment and identify where changes would be needed for agricultural education and collaboration.

Alignment with strategy:

This project is aligned with WaterRA's strategic priorities, and falls under several focus areas, such as Managing Contamination in Water, Managing Source Water, Climate Change and Risk Reduction to name a few.

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<p>Deliverables: There are two key deliverables for this project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Australian based 'State of the Science' report suitable for easy adoption and awareness within water utilities 2. Dissemination of the report widely in Australia. 		
<p>Project Roles WaterRA would commission and project manage preparation of the report. WaterRA would engage a panel of experts to provide peer review to ensure an independent assessment was delivered.</p>		
<p>Interested Stakeholders Utilities, Researchers, Agricultural Institutions</p>		
<p>Indicative Funding required: ~\$60k for report ~\$10k for project dissemination if meeting/s are required</p>		
<p>Duration: The project duration is expected to be approximately 6 months.</p>		
<p>Intellectual Property: Background IP Project IP – WaterRA with licence to funding partners</p>		
<p>What are the anticipated benefits?</p>	<p>Capacity Building Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Benefits 	<p>Organisational learning – independent summary of emerging contaminants in Australia to enable effective management and awareness. Agreed evidence base and identification of any gaps and suggestions for how they can be filled</p>
	<p>What will success look like (KPIs)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful engagement with utilities and foundation document for initiation of national understanding regarding the current and future risks of emerging contaminants for planning of future drinking water supplies. 	



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Funding

Name:

Date:

FOR CASH FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$.....

FOR INKIND FUNDING AMOUNT OF \$.....

FOR FINANCIAL YEAR/S.....