**States versus state in search of the   
2020 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia**

**MEDIA RELEASE October 2020**

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) will conduct the Ixom 2020 Best Tasting Tap Water competitions on Wednesday 21 October 2021 amidst unprecedented conditions for many working in the water industry.

The National Championship winner will be announced at around 2.45pm in the afternoon in the auditorium of the WIOA virtual water platform ([www.virtualwater.com.au](http://www.virtualwater.com.au))

**Registration and access is FREE.**

Virtual Water is a highly interactive, 3-D virtual environment featuring video-streamed presentations with live Q&A and interaction with product and service providers on the expo floor. Virtual Water is an engaging platform that will provide suppliers an opportunity to exhibit their products and services through 2020.

WIOA members are working hard behind the scenes for their communities to deliver high quality drinking water, whilst dealing with the impacts of COVID-19 and before that drought, fires and floods in various parts of Australia.

Craig Mathisen, WIOA Chief Operations Officer, said “The competition will recognise and acknowledge the individuals and organisations that are stepping up, some in very trying circumstances, to make sure their communities are supplied safe drinking water every day.”

“If drought, heavy rain in fire affected catchments causing issues with sediment in the runoff, COVID-19 comes along, yet the water and sewer supply continue. Some of our members have never experienced these conditions before and they are rising to the challenge to meet their community’s needs.”

WIOA is supporting it’s members and the unsung people on the ground. The association is running regular information sessions and technical sessions where members are learning from the experiences of others in the water industry. The online platform has also enabled international presenters form leading experts to also share their knowledge.

“We know it has been a very tough time for our members out there,” said Mathisen, “and we want to use the Taste Test Competition to let people know the great work that is going on in local communities around Australia as these teams help shape and secure Australia’s water future.”

Water authorities from various regional and metropolitan areas have competed during 2020 in state heats where water samples have been judged on qualities like colour, clarity, odour and mouthfeel during blind taste tests.

2020 state champion entries:

NSW/ACT Wauchope WTP Port Macquarie Hastings Council  
Queensland Woodbury WTP Livingstone Shire Council  
South Australia Woolpunda WTP SA Water  
Tasmania Rossarden WTP TasWater – TRILITY  
Western Australia Yalgoo WTP Water Corporation  
Victoria Mildura WTP Lower Murray Water

Water samples are judged according to the Water Tasting Wheel which outlines some of the attributes that water professionals use when judging water.

WIOA has a small judging panel that this year will be tasked with selecting the state winners.

The winner of the Ixom 2020 Best Tap Water in Australia competition will have bragging rights for the next 12 months and will go on to represent Australia at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition held in West Virginia, USA.

**Photos**

Photos from the 2019 state competitions are available from – <https://wioa.smugmug.com/Water-Taste-Tests>

**About WIOA**

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) is a national not-for-profit association with a primary role of facilitating the collection, development and exchange of quality information between people undertaking operational roles in the water industry.

[www.wioa.org.au](http://www.wioa.org.au)

**About IXOM**

Ixom is the market leader in water treatment and chemical distribution in Australia and New Zealand, with a growing presence in Asia and the Americas. Ixom supplies general chemicals across a diverse range of markets including agriculture, building and construction, food and beverage, pharmaceutical and personal care, plastics, pulp and paper and water treatment industries.

[www.ixom.com.au](http://www.ixom.com.au)

- ENDS-

For media enquiries including interviews and images:

Craig Mathisen

Water Industry Operators Association of Australia

0457 846 008

[craig@wioa.org.au](mailto:craig@wioa.org.au)

**A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated**