**States go head-to-head in search of**

**Australia’s best tasting tap water**

**MEDIA RELEASE - November 2021**

If it’s not football, beer or cricket in their sights, Australians are quick to claim their state has the best tasting tap water in Australia.

The Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA) host the Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition in November, putting interstate rivalry to the ultimate test.

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

The top drop from each state was announced on Tuesday 16 November, 2021 before the state winners battle it out for the top prize in Tasmania where last year’s national champion and the winner of the 2021 Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition comes from.

The winner of the Ixom 2021 Best Tasting Tap Water in Australia competition will have bragging rights for the next 12 months and go on to represent Australia at the annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting Competition held in West Virginia, USA.

“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 with safe drinking water every day.”

“We want to use the competition to let people know the great work that is going on in local communities around Australia and help shape and secure Australia’s water future,” said Craig Mathisen, WIOA Chief Operations Officer.

“WIOA would also like to acknowledge Ixom’s support of the Best Tasting Tap Water competition in these uncertain times. We have been able to run the competition because of their unwavering commitment and support to the industry,” said Mathisen.

Water industry organisations are promoting the benefits of making better use of the water we have, along with looking at all the alternative water sources to supplement supplies.

““It’s our great pleasure to once again support the competition that highlights the outstanding people and great work that go into making clean, safe and compliant drinking water across Australia.

“This work protects people and keeps businesses running, and as a market leader in water treatment and chemical distribution, we’re very proud to be part of it.

“We have been involved in Australian water treatment for some 80 years and are honoured to support the work being done in this sector,” said David Head, Ixom CEO.

**State competitions winners in 2021 are:**

Queensland Mackay, Marian Water Treatment Plant

NSW / ACT Richmond Valley Council, Casino WTP

South Australia SA Water – Suez, Anstey Hill WTP

West Australia Water Corporation, Wyndham WTP

Tasmania TasWater – Stornoway, Rocky Creek WTP

Victoria Westernport Water, IBWPP – Bass

The National Championship will be conducted in Tasmania, early in 2022

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

Think wine tasting without needing to spit out the samples and you won’t be far wrong.

For more information, please visit - <https://wioa.org.au/tastetest/>

Photos from the previous competitions are available at:

<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 recognises the importance of safe, clean and great tasting water. It is a market leader in water treatment and chemical distribution in Australia and New Zealand, with an increasing presence throughout South East Asia and North America.

IXOM’s story is a wonderful one of an organisation built over 100 years ago, who today has the privilege of using its many years of knowledge and specialist expertise to help keep communities safe and industries operating. Most drinking water in Australia and New Zealand is treated with products that Ixom makes locally in each country.

Headquartered in Melbourne, it has 1,000 employees and operations in 12 countries. Industries it supplies include agriculture, construction, electricity, steel, food and beverage, and pulp and paper.

IXOM proudly sponsors water taste tests across North America, New Zealand and Australia.

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

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