

Chair's Report

First Annual General Meeting, 15 October 2026

Welcome

On behalf of the committee, welcome to the first Annual General Meeting of the Rainwater Harvesting Association Inc. (RHA). This has been a foundational year for our association, one in which we established ourselves as an independent, member-led voice for the rainwater harvesting industry in Australia, and began building the governance, policy and communications platform we will rely on for years to come.

Year in Review

RHA successfully transitioned from a division of Irrigation Australia to a standalone incorporated association, Rainwater Harvesting Association Inc, adopting a Constitution and a Charter of Committee to formalise our governance.

We also developed our 2026–2028 Business Plan, setting out our priorities across policy, communication and industry engagement for the years ahead.

We engaged The Association Specialists (TAS) as our professional secretariat, providing ongoing administration, financial and committee support as we have grown as an independent association.

The RHA committee comprises nine members and meets monthly to oversee the Association's operations, policy positions, membership and industry engagement. A key governance milestone this year was the adoption of the Charter of Committee, which sets out committee roles and responsibilities, executive nomination criteria, terms of office, and financial delegations.

Members will also be asked to consider special resolutions to amend the Constitution at this AGM, relating to committee voting rights and terms of office. Full details and the proposed wording are set out in the Notice of Meeting.

Key Achievements

Our achievements this year track directly against the three strategic focus areas set out in our Business Plan: Policy and Regulation, Communication, and Industry Engagement.

Policy and Regulation

- Successfully advocated for the removal of unfavourable rainwater harvesting provisions from the AS3500:2025 plumbing standard
- Engaged with the ABCB on the development of the National Construction Code
- Finalised and published the National Rainwater Harvesting Policy, based on modelling by Professor Coombes, providing a data-driven foundation for a 30% stormwater reduction target

- Maintained active representation on the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC)

Communication

- Secured our own domain and launched the redeveloped RHA website, including a policy reference library
- Launched our newsletter via Mailchimp, achieving a strong 45% open rate and generating new membership enquiries
- Presented on smart metering and IoT impacts at Ozwater '25, and had a policy paper accepted for the IWA Water Efficiency Conference
- Chaired the AWA Rainwater Harvesting Members Circle, bringing together speakers from across the water sector

Industry Engagement

- Developed a structured membership model and professional membership brochure
- Completed our first membership renewal cycle and grew to 18 members as at end August 2026
- Provided a letter of support for the River to Reef project, including development of the Bay Edition brochure of Rainwater Harvesting Design Specification
- Prepared for and are now holding our first Annual General Meeting, a key milestone in the Business Plan for this period

Financial Summary

The Association remains in a sound financial position. Our Treasurer, Michelle Kramer, will present the full financial report separately.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year we will build on this foundation, in line with our 2026–2028 Business Plan:

- Advocating for adoption of the RHA policy document across government and industry stakeholders
- Ongoing industry and member communication
- Website enhancement, including videos and a research paper library
- Continued membership and supporter growth, and planning toward an annual national RHA event

Thanks and Acknowledgements

I would like to thank our founding and new members, without your early and ongoing support, we would not have been able to establish ourselves as an independent association.

Thank you to my fellow committee members for the time, expertise and goodwill you have brought to this first year, much of what we have achieved has depended on volunteer effort above and beyond your day jobs.

I would also like to acknowledge Professor Peter Coombes for his outstanding contribution to the understanding of urban water management in Australia, and for the evidence base his work has provided for our national policy.

Closing

Thank you again for your support over this founding year. I am happy to take any questions.