

6 December 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCED FOR SAWATER

John Ringham - SA Water's current Chief Operating Officer - will become the Corporation's Chief Executive on December 17.

His appointment will take effect following the retirement of current Chief Executive Anne Howe who has been in the role for the past 10 years.

Announcing the appointment, SA Water Board Chairman Philip Pledge said Mr Ringham - who started at SA Water in November 2000 - had 35 years' experience in the water industry in Australia and overseas.

"John has been an exceptional Chief Operating Officer for six years and his skills in delivering major projects, strategic planning, contract management and negotiation have shown he can drive innovation and excellent outcomes for SA Water and our customers," Mr Pledge said.

"His technical capabilities are matched by exceptional commercial acumen, a strong commitment to people and incredible knowledge of the water industry.

"As we prepare for economic regulation, John's overseas experience operating in a regulated environment will be a significant benefit for SA Water, our staff and our customers."

Mr Ringham started at SA Water in November 2000 as Head of Water Services, managing water and wastewater operations across the State, developing and delivering asset management and capital investment programs, and was responsible for SA Water's world renowned water quality laboratories.

In September 2004, he became Chief Operating Officer, responsible for a capital portfolio worth more than \$1 billion and leading a major review of the Corporation's strategic direction to deliver improved efficiencies and services for customers.

Prior to 2000, Mr Ringham was General Manager of Network Services for United Utilities in the UK and held senior roles in UK water utilities. He holds numerous engineering, technical and professional qualifications.

Mr Ringham is Director and Deputy Chairman of WaterAid Australia, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing water, sanitation and hygiene education to the poorest countries in the world.

Mr Ringham said he was looking forward to steering SA Water through major change, including new legislation, economic regulation and a new metropolitan contract, as well as ensuring delivery of a new, more secure source of water from the Adelaide desalination plant.

“There are major changes on the horizon and I am committed to working with the Board, management team and employees to strive for continuous improvement and ensure our customers benefit from these changes,” Mr Ringham said.

Mr Pledge thanked Ms Howe for her stewardship of SA Water over a decade of significant change and challenge.

“Under Anne’s leadership, the SA Water team has continued to deliver quality water despite the worst drought on record, the most significant capital works program in our history and significant water quality challenges,” he said.

“Anne will be missed by the Board and the staff - I thank her for her absolute dedication and wish her all the best for her retirement.”

Mr Pledge said there had been a number of exceptional applicants from across Australia for the role of Chief Executive.