

MEDIA RELEASE

Caring for water and Country this National Water Week

19 July 2021

The Australian Water Association's (AWA) National Water Week 18-24 October 2021 is launching the theme of "Caring for water and Country" in partnership with Spirit Creative, a proudly majority Indigenous owned business.

National Water Week is a time to raise awareness and understanding of the significance of water. Corinne Cheeseman, AWA's Chief Executive said "Caring for water and Country recognises the importance water plays in our lives. It is an opportunity for Australians to reflect on how we can rebuild from our turbulent recent years of floods, drought and fires in the face of climate change and the COVID pandemic."

"Caring for water and Country means rebuilding a strong future by learning more from the cultural practices of Traditional Custodians and we are proud to partner with Spirit Creative to bring this year's National Water Week theme to life" she said.

Spirit Creative Co-Founder, Glen Ella said "Water has always been an important part of how we live in Australia. Growing up in the coastal towns of Nowra and La Perouse I really understand the connection our people have with water and how it has sustained us on this land for over 60,000 years. We're proud to be working with the AWA to help share our stories through National Water Week."

As part of the partnership, Spirit Creative artist Dennis Golding produced an artwork titled *Our Waters*. Dennis explains that the inspiration behind the artwork comes from his strong connection to Country, from the freshwater and saltwater regions of northern and north-west NSW.

"The patterns flow through different water streams and continue the paths around the circular motifs that often reference meeting places and waterholes. The waters operate as a protector of these grounds to acknowledge First People's connection to land and waters as they too care for Country now, and who have done so for thousands of years" Mr Golding said.

To get involved in National Water Week this year go to the [National Water Week website](#).

Ends

AUSTRALIAN WATER

ASSOCIATION

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About the Australian Water Association

Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network inspiring and driving a sustainable water future and connecting over 12,000 water professionals.