



Water Industry Operators Association of Australia Submission of Abstract

Platform *or* Poster: **Platform**

Title of Abstract: **What Does PRW Demonstration Demonstrate?
Unpacking and Understanding the Different Aspects of PRW Demonstration.**

Abstract (200 words):

In April 2022 Hunter Water released its Lower Hunter Water Security Plan (LHWSP) after extensive community engagement and a strategic review with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) of the region's current supply system. An 'all options on the table' approach was implemented and purified recycled water for drinking (PRW) was identified as one potential future supply option. While there is no commitment for delivering a PRW supply scheme, Hunter Water has an action in the LHWSP to deliver a PRW demonstration plant and education facility. The purpose of this is to build community understanding of PRW as a potential supply option, and build confidence in the health regulator that Hunter Water can deliver a safe and reliable product, both of which are equally important when planning for a PRW supply scheme.

While delivery of a demonstration plant is typical, demonstration is a broad term that covers many aspects. The challenge that will be discussed in this case study is Hunter Water's considerations in determining what are the right first steps for a scheme that is so early in the planning phase. Can a utility effectively start to build community confidence in PRW as a supply option without a demonstration plant, or does it need to be seen to be believed?

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