

# PRIVATISATION THE COST OF WATER REFORM?

**Wednesday 18th May 2011**

5.30 for a 6.00 pm start

**Allan Scott Auditorium,**

UniSA City West campus, Hawke Building,  
50-55 North Terrace, Adelaide

**Hawke Centre FREE public forum**

**Keynotes by Maude Barlow,**

International Water Campaigner,

**Dr Ian Douglas,** Fair Water Use (Australia),

**and John Caldecott,** Convenor,

Water Action Coalition.

**RSVP essential,**

via Hawke Centre website:

[www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au](http://www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au)

or phone (08) 8302 0215

**Jointly presented by the Water Action Coalition  
and The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre.**



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International Water Adviser

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**Hallett Shueard**

River Murray

**Tom Trevorrow**

Ngarrindjeri Elder

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# PRIVATISATION THE COST OF WATER REFORM?



What are the likely social, environmental, legal and economic impacts of Water Reform?

And what can we do about it?

## PRIVATISATION THE COST OF WATER REFORM?

will explore the water reform process and the far reaching impact of increasing privatisation, and where control of our water, our rivers and aquifers, and our water supply utilities currently lies and will lie into the future, and the implications for citizens.

The mismanagement of the Murray-Darling Basin over the last two decades has had disastrous consequences for communities, ecosystems and economies, particularly those at the end of the river system in South Australia.

There have also been significant impacts on greater metropolitan Adelaide with more to come.

COAG's Water Reform agenda will be under the spotlight in this forum.

Many Australians have supported the spirit of water reform, but many are beginning to question the push towards a national water 'market', and whether the broad needs of citizens and environments of Australia can truly be addressed under such a 'privatised' system.

### Background:

The process of Australian Water Reform commenced in the late 1980s and has been driven by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). In June 2004, Premier Rann co-signed the "Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Water Initiative" (NWI).



A sustainable water future without compromising the health of interdependent ecosystems is a critical issue for our state and our nation.

### Background:

The National Water Commission was established to hold the states accountable to this process. The 2010 Draft Water Industry Act sanctions the establishment of private companies to provide monopoly and fragmented water supply and water services.

It is expected that there will be higher costs for South Australian households and businesses as a result.

### Format:

Prominent speakers have been invited to take part in a forum that will discuss the environmental, social, economic and legal/constitutional implications of Water Reform. Politicians will be invited to respond. The evening will also include a panel session and questions from the floor.

### Confirmed Politicians:

#### Penny Wright,

Senator-Elect for the Greens (SA) and:

**Adrian Pederick** MP, Member for Hammond, Shadow Minister for Agriculture Food & Fisheries, and Shadow Minister for Forests.

### Panel Members:

#### Deb Tribe,

891 ABC Radio (Facilitator),

#### Ross Womersley,

Executive Director, SA Council of Social Service,

#### Professor Rob Fowler,

Adjunct Professor of Law, University of South Australia,

#### Mark Henley,

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide, and

#### Professor Fran Baum,

Professor of Public Health and Australia Research Council Federation Fellow, Flinders University.

### About Water

#### Action Coalition:

WAC is a broadly based movement of community groups and environmental organisations seeking an informed and constructive debate on our water future.

WAC supports policies that seek to ensure sustainable water supplies, without compromising the health of interdependent ecosystems.

#### Note: Maude Barlow's

presentation will be a pre-recorded video produced in Canada specifically for the Forum.

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