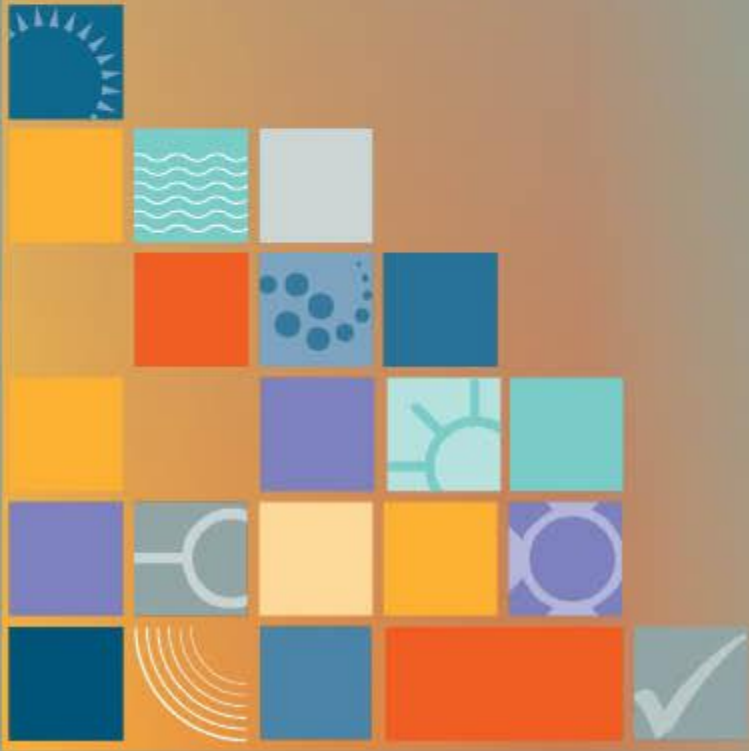


# National Cyanobacterial Workshop

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# Cyanobacteria in NSW

- Two recent major bloom events have brought cyanobacteria into prominence in NSW:
  - Warragamba Reservoir (August 2007)
  - Murray River (April 2009),
- However many localised blooms occur all across the state each summer:
  - In State Water storages,
  - In sections of the lowland rivers within the Murray Darling Basin
  - In small town water supply reservoirs
  - In small urban water bodies and wetlands

# Warragamba Reservoir 2007

- Supplies water to 3.7 million people within the greater Sydney Metropolitan area
- Management by the Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney Water Corporation, and NSW Health
- Public health risks to Sydney water users prevented



# Murray River 2009

- 1000 km was impacted
- Occurred right at the Easter holidays when river usage was at a maximum
- All water uses were impacted
- Managed by the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee



# Bloom Management in NSW

- These 2 blooms provided ongoing stimulus to ensure adequate and timely responses to manage blooms in NSW
- Bloom management is undertaken by 9 Regional Algal Coordinating Committees (RACCS) that cover the entire state
- One major role of the Office of Water, is to support the RACCs whenever blooms occur

# Benefit of Communication

- The Murray River bloom highlighted the benefit of communication, cooperation & collaboration.
- It fostered considerable cross-border cooperation and management input from Victorian counterpart agencies and the Murray Darling Basin Authority
- In particular, the response benefitted by maintaining the integrity of the RACCS – but having support of the State Agencies & MDBA.

# Need for Improved Communication

- Cyanobacterial blooms also a problem in most other Australian states and territories
- Decreased communication between jurisdictions in recent years - focus has been on other water management issues
- No major national meeting on cyanobacterial bloom management for a number of years

# Potential Synergies

- NSW anticipates that there are considerable synergies in bloom management and research across Australia
- What happens in one jurisdiction may not be widely known elsewhere
- A wider knowledge of these events and management practices would be to the benefit of all

# Objectives of this Workshop

- Update on the current status of cyanobacterial blooms across Australia
- Highlight the issues arising from these blooms
- Discuss the options available for their management both now and in the future

# Outcomes

- Enhanced knowledge transfer between bloom managers and researchers
- Better avenues of communication established
- Increased cooperation amongst managers and researchers across jurisdictional boundaries
- Ultimately, better management of future problem blooms

# Welcome

- Welcome to Parramatta
- Welcome to this workshop hosted by the Office of Water, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and our co-sponsors the Sydney Catchment Authority and Water Quality Research Australia