



Water and wipes industries come together to tackle issue

In a landmark collaboration, the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA), the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) and Accord Australasia Limited has led a forum of representatives from the urban water industry and wipes industry.

WSAA is the peak national industry body for the urban water industry. Accord is the national industry association representing manufacturers and suppliers of hygiene, cosmetic and specialty products, their raw material suppliers and service providers. The AFGC is the leading national organisation representing Australia's food, drink and grocery manufacturing industry.

The groups came together to collaborate on short and long term options for reducing the impact of wipes in wastewater systems around Australia.

The forum heard case studies from urban water utilities around Australia and considered the current state of play nationally and internationally.

As a result of the forum, the three associations will lead further work in confirming the source of material in sewers, considering ways to better educate the community and participating in the development of an international standard relating to flushable products.

"We are pleased the industry wants to work with us on this issue. We are working towards a solution that will avoid additional long term costs to water utility customers and adverse impacts on the environment", said Adam Lovell, WSAA's Executive Director.

"The wipes and hygiene industry welcomes this opportunity to commence collaborative discussions with the water industry. Our first priority will be to gain a better understanding of all dimensions of this issue to maximise the effectiveness of any solutions brought forward" said Craig Brock, Accord Policy Director.

"This work will develop a strong evidence base to determine what products are causing concern and what role companies can play in contributing to addressing this challenge", said a representative from the AFGC.

END

Notes:

WSAA is the peak body representing the urban water industry in Australia. Its members provide water and wastewater services to over 20 million Australians, including many of Australia's largest industrial and commercial enterprises.

Accord Australasia Limited is the national industry association for the Australasian hygiene, cosmetic and specialty products industry - a growing industry, generating innovative and

Media inquiries

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sustainable products essential for healthy living and a quality lifestyle.

The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) is the leading national organisation representing Australia's packaged food, drink and grocery products manufacturers. The food and grocery product industry is Australia's largest manufacturing sector and its members make a substantial contribution to the economic and social welfare of all Australians.

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