

A I T H E R

AITHER QUARTERLY LETTER



Dear Clients and Colleagues,

It's been an eventful few months, during which Aither [announced its acquisition by Ricardo plc](#), and also participated in the United Nations Water Conference in New York. The Conference underscored the urgency required in responding to the global water crisis and need for climate adaptation. The events we participated in show that our work with clients on water governance, infrastructure investment decision making, innovation in water management, and adaptation planning, is more important than ever. Key messages Aither participants [Amy Syvrud](#) and [Noah Kaiser](#) took away are summarised in their [UN Water Conference insight](#).



Reflections on UN Water Conference

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Further to these key messages, the Conference highlighted the importance of aligning strategy and governance with investment decision-making. Our insight, '[From water strategies to strategic water investments](#),' authored by [Ben Smith](#), [Ryan Gormly](#) and [Rod Coulton](#), highlights the challenges involved in long-term water planning and investment decision-making. There is a clear need to prioritise investment in infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects to address emerging risks to water resources posed by climate change, population growth, and industry changes.



From water strategies to strategic water investments

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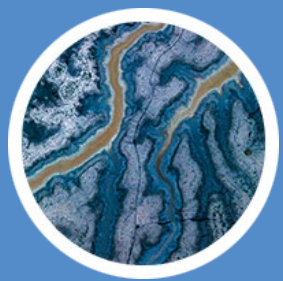
The Conference also revealed increased attention on the importance of managing our groundwater resources to improve drought resilience. This includes the potential of water banking in aquifers. As discussed in our insight, '[The future of banking?](#)' authored by [Yvette Colton](#), [Ryan Gormly](#) and [Rod Coulton](#), water banking has the potential to reduce vulnerability through water source diversification. It can also delay or avoid the need for a higher cost water supply and provide flexibility for water demand requirements.



The future of banking?

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Further, the importance of adapting to climate change was strongly emphasised by Conference participants. We have recently developed an adaptation planning framework that supports organisations to overcome common adaptation planning challenges. Our insight '[Overcoming adaptation planning challenges](#)' authored by [Martijn Gough](#) and [Joshua Moore](#), describes key lessons from our research and consolidates the most practically relevant aspects of existing adaptation planning guidelines.



Overcoming adaptation planning challenges

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Who pays for adaptation and how to develop effective and equitable funding models is critical to realising adaptation action. Our insight '[Who pays for coastal adaptation?](#)', authored by [Sarah Leck](#) and [Martijn Gough](#), takes a local example and highlights the steps required to move from identifying adaptation beneficiaries to getting action practically and equitably funded.



Who pays for coastal adaptation?

[Read the full article](#)

As we explore synergies resulting from joining [Ricardo](#) we remain committed to helping achieve water security, adapt to climate change, and improve the lives of people and communities worldwide. We look forward to continuing to work with clients in pursuit of a more secure and sustainable future, and as always, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions or ideas.

Best regards,

The Aither Team



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