Due to the lack of publicly available information, another simplification required for this exercise is that the annual yield/usage from each water source will equal the maximum capacity of that source. The actual usage of large infrastructure will typically be below maximum capacity for a number of years and therefore the levelised cost may be understated in some cases depending on the actual take up rate.

A full analysis is beyond the scope of this study and therefore the levelised cost results are provided for indicative purposes only.

### 2.2.1. Rainwater tank costs

Research by MJA, conducted on behalf of the National Water Commission, indicates that the cost to the community of rainwater tanks with mixed indoor/outdoor use can range from $2.15/kL to $12.30/kL depending on the exact location, tank size and roof collection area (Table 2).

**Table 2: Levelised cost of rainwater tanks to community – combined indoor and outdoor use**

| Tank Size | 2 kL | | 10 kL | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roof Area | 50m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ | 50m$^2$ | 200m$^2$ |
| ***Levelised Cost ($/kL)*** [1,2] | | | | |
| Brisbane | 6.14 | 3.16 | 6.22 | 2.22 |
| Sydney | 5.34 | 2.79 | 5.41 | 2.15 |
| Melbourne | 8.75 | 2.98 | 10.92 | 2.67 |
| Adelaide | 9.76 | 3.77 | 12.30 | 3.32 |
| Perth | 7.39 | 3.71 | 8.85 | 3.25 |

Note: 1. Based on a standard above ground tank, plumbed for both indoor and outdoor use. Melbourne cost includes an offset for reduced stormwater treatment costs due to nitrogen removal in Melbourne.

2. Yield based on daily time step data from BoM sites (typically the airport). Substantial variation across cities may exist (for example, the old Brisbane regional office station shows total rainfall since 1976 to be within 1% of the total airport rainfall, however the rainfall at the Brisbane showgrounds was 10% lower for the same period).

*Source:* Marsden Jacob Associates (2007)

## 2.3. Cost of alternative water sources

The cost of alternative water sources has been estimated in planning documents produced for each Australian capital city. A summary of the available results is shown in Figure 2.