

WATER FOR THE FUTURE



Water for the Future is the government's plan to drive reform in the way we use and manage our water resources to prepare Australia for the future.

The government is taking national leadership through Water for the Future by focusing on four water priorities:

- **taking action on climate change;**
- **using water wisely;**
- **securing water supplies; and**
- **healthy rivers and waterways.**

Water for the Future is delivering a ten year package involving a total allocation of resources of \$12.9 billion⁶.

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Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The key strategies to deliver on the government's four priorities for water reform in 2008-09 are:

- taking early action to address the urgent plight of the Murray-Darling Basin through water efficiency measures in irrigation systems, and increased water purchasing for river health;
- implementation of new programs: the Water for the Future – National Urban Water and Desalination Plan, the Water for the Future – National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns, and the Water for the Future – National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative; and
- progressing urban and rural water policy initiatives including the historic Murray-Darling arrangements agreed at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in March 2008.



⁶ Includes \$1.5 billion in new funding.



The following programs are funded in 2008-09 under Water for the Future. They will be managed by the department except where otherwise indicated:

- Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure;
- Restoring the Balance in the Basin;
- Driving Reform in the Basin – *part will be under ACCG*;
- Northern Australia and Great Artesian Basin;
- Improving Water Information – *under the Bureau of Meteorology*;
- Northern Australia Futures – Assessment;
- National Urban Water and Desalination Plan;
- National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns;
- National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative;
- Raising National Water Standards – *under the National Water Commission*;
- Water Smart Australia; and
- The Living Murray initiative.



