

WATER FOR THE FUTURE



Water for the Future

The Australian Government recognises the immense challenge in tackling Australia's water scarcity and the impact of climate change. *Water for the Future* is a comprehensive national response to meet these challenges in both rural and urban areas.

Water for the Future is built on four key priorities: taking action on climate change, using water wisely, securing water supplies and supporting healthy rivers. These priorities will be delivered through a ten year, \$12.9 billion investment in strategic programs, improved water management arrangements, and a renewed commitment to water reform nationally.

The success of *Water for the Future* relies on all levels of government responding in a cooperative and coordinated way to secure sustainable, long term water supplies for the benefit of all Australians.

The Australian Government has devoted an unprecedented level of investment in driving reform in how our water resources are managed and used.

Water for the Future – Reallocation of Driving Reform in the Basin funds

The Australian Government recognises the key role that government agencies play in addressing the water challenge. Such partnerships bring together the policies and resources to address all aspects of Australia's water management. The government is supporting agencies at the frontier of driving water reform to ensure they meet the challenges that lie ahead through a reallocation of funding to meet new responsibilities.

Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA)

- Funding of \$185.3 million will be provided from 2009–10 to 2016–17 for the development and administration of the Basin Plan will ensure sustainable and an integrated management of Murray-Darling Basin water resources.

National Water Commission (NWC)

- Funding of \$7.5 million will be provided to the National Water Commission to independently audit the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basin Plan and make public these reports.

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)

- Funding of \$3.4 million will be provided to the ACCC to regulate water trading and water charge rules to ensure efficient water markets in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Water for the Future – Restoring the Balance in the Basin

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- Half a billion dollars will be brought forward over four financial years from 2008–09 to accelerate water recovery purchases from willing sellers in the Murray-Darling Basin to improve the health of river systems.
- The entitlements purchased through this program will be managed by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to protect and restore the environmental assets of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Small Block Irrigators – Exit Grant Package - expansion

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Centrelink

The Australian Government is bringing relief to drought and climate change affected small block irrigators in the Murray-Darling Basin. The Australian Government has committed \$107.0 million to the Exit Grant Package to provide transitional assistance for farmers wishing to exit the irrigation sector but remain in their family home and continue to be part of their local community. Irrigators must sell their water entitlements to the Commonwealth in order to be eligible for the package.

Bioremediation and revegetation trials

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- \$10.0 million has been committed to bioremediation and revegetation works to address the impacts from exposure of acid sulphate soils around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert, South Australia, in a process that will engage with local communities.

Water for the Future - National Stormwater Funding

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- From within the \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan, the government has invested \$200.0 million for stormwater harvesting and reuse projects to improve water security by easing demands on drinking water supplies in urban communities and reduce the impact of urban run-off on water quality in receiving waters such as rivers and estuaries.

Water for the Future - Local Plans for a Future With Less Water

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

- The government has committed \$200.0 million over three years from within the \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan to assist local municipalities in the Murray-Darling Basin to plan their water needs for the future and implement local water savings initiatives.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

The government has committed \$300.0 million for a new on-farm irrigation efficiency program from within the \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan. This program will invest in projects in the southern Murray-Darling Basin that deliver more efficient irrigation systems, secure long-term economic growth for irrigation communities and deliver substantial and lasting improvements to the environment.