



**Australian Government**

**Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts**

## **Fact Sheet: Offering conveyance water for Australian Government purchase**

Irrigation water providers with open channel delivery systems may hold a conveyance licence, which is the water that the provider is allocated to deliver water from their off-takes on a river to each landholding within the irrigation district.

Where infrastructure is to be decommissioned as part of a group proposal, the amount of conveyance water required by the water provider to operate the system may be reduced. With the mutual agreement of the irrigation water provider and the irrigators a proportion or all of these conveyance savings may be offered for sale to the Commonwealth for sale as part of your proposal. The Department will value conveyance water according to the volume of water the underlying water right is likely to yield for the environment over the long term.

The process for transferring ownership of a portion of the water provider's conveyance licence to the Commonwealth is similar to the process for transferring ownership of entitlements held by individual irrigators.

For the Commonwealth to purchase part of a conveyance water entitlement, assignment of rights under the existing conveyance water licence will be necessary. This will require the consent of the relevant State Minister on the application of, or with the consent of, the water provider.

Processes for dealings in water licences are specified in the relevant State water legislation, such as the *Water Management Act 2000* in New South Wales, the *Water Act 1999* in Victoria, and the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* in South Australia.