



Australian Government

# WATER for the FUTURE

## The Australian Government's plan for Water

Climate change is causing water shortages that pose a serious threat to our economy and way of life.

That is why the Australian Government is investing \$12.9 billion in *Water for the Future* – a 10-year plan to secure the long-term water supply of all Australians.

*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.

*Water for the Future* is the first ever nationwide plan that addresses both rural and urban water.

It will help secure water supplies for Australian households, businesses and farmers, as well as provide water to restore the health of Australia's stressed river systems.



(A. Mostead)

### TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Australian Government is preparing our water resources for the impacts of climate change by:

- Accurately monitoring, assessing and forecasting the availability, condition and use of our water resources through the \$450 million *Improving Water Information Program*.
- Establishing the Murray-Darling Basin Authority which will develop a Basin-wide plan to identify risks to Basin water resources, such as climate change and develop strategies to manage those risks.

### USING WATER WISELY

The Government is increasing the wise use of water by:

- Investing in key rural water projects that save water by upgrading out-dated, leaky irrigation systems under the \$5.8 billion *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program*.
- Providing \$250 million through the *National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative* to help households and surf lifesaving clubs save precious drinking water by installing rainwater tanks and greywater systems.
- Supporting businesses with high water usage to be more water-wise through the *Water Efficiency Opportunities Program*.

*Water for the Future* is a long-term plan to secure the water supply for all Australians. The Government is investing \$12.9 billion over 10 years to address four key priorities:

- Taking action on climate change
- Using water wisely
- Securing water supplies
- Supporting healthy rivers

## SECURING WATER SUPPLIES

Climate change is reducing rainfall across much of Australia.

To combat this reality, *Water for the Future* is helping towns and cities secure their water supply by:

- Investing \$1 billion through the *National Urban Water and Desalination Plan* to support desalination, water recycling and stormwater reuse and reduce our reliance on traditional rainfall.
- Funding practical projects like pipelines, water saving infrastructure and water treatment plants, through the \$250 million *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns*.

## SUPPORTING HEALTHY RIVERS

Australia's rivers and groundwater systems provide most of the water we use in our homes and to grow food and other crops.

Many of Australia's river systems are under stress as a result of climate change, drought and a history of taking too much water out of the rivers.

The Australian Government is investing to improve the health of our important rivers by:

- Buying back water entitlements from willing sellers under the \$3.1 billion *Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin* program.
- Setting a new, scientifically informed cap on the amount of water that can be taken out of rivers and groundwater systems in the Murray-Darling Basin.

For more information about *Water for the Future* call 1800 218 478 or visit [www.environment.gov.au/water](http://www.environment.gov.au/water)

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(A. McAulay)



Molongolo Water Quality Control Centre (D. Markovic)



Murray River (M. Williams)