

Snippets from “Australian Water Association”
Water News – April 2006

Elected Members and Staff can source further Information available from contact
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Early in April young people from within the Murray-Darling gathered in Canberra to brainstorm ideas the catchment’s future and on the final day presented their visions & ideas to Federal Parliament.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION is the key – this was acknowledged by both the PM & Malcolm Turnbull requiring community support in Toowoomba for the proposed indirect potable reuse project.

The Australian Government will provide \$1.8 million towards the “Smart Approved Water Mark” scheme. Projects funded include water recycling systems for residential developments; a study to understand surface – groundwater interaction and a new water smart approval label to provide consumers with sufficient information to make informed choices about products.

Sydney Water has announced – Camellia Recycled Water project which will be one of the largest industrial water saving schemes in Australia; could provide up to six billion litres of recycled water per year.

NSW Dept of Energy etc – A draft proposal designed to streamline the process for the implementation of decentralised recycle water projects, while protecting public health.

Cyclone Larry supplied North Queensland with 300 billion litres of water.

Melbourne storage levels have fallen to 51.2%

World Water forum in Mexico acknowledged Australian’s are world leaders in using market forces to stop water wastage & pollution.

Western Australia has signed up to the National Water Initiative.

Privatisation of the Snowy Hydro Scheme looks set to be privatised.

The PM has announced funding of \$782.000 from the Water Smart Australia Program to improve recycling of stormwater and reduce ocean outfall in and around Cottesloe in WA to replenish the groundwater aquifer.

Wastewater reuse to achieve water savings of 30 ML per year and greenhouse savings of 249 tonnes per year in Landcom NSW.

National Water Commissioners have visited sub-surface Cotton Irrigators Management Systems in the Goondiwindi district to discuss the importance of effective water planning for social, environmental and production uses.

Barwon Water is planning to bring the Barwon Downs wellfield into production in response to Geelong’s falling water storage levels which is expected to provide up to 30 ML per day.

Sydney will have access to an extra 40 billion litres of water each year following tapping of deep water supplies in the Warragamba Dam.

Amendments to the LG Regulations in NSW will allow householders to install & make use of grey water re-use schemes

Sydney Water has been ordered to pay \$16 million on water saving measures to qualify for its operating licence next year.

The first stage of a \$13m scheme that will divert 22,000 tonnes per annum of salt from the Murray River to be mined by Pyramid Creek Salt Inception scheme near Kerang and is funded by Vic,

NSW, SA and the Australian Government has been officially opened. I believe we may be visiting this scheme as part of the MBA Annual General Meeting later this year.

The Queensland Government has made available \$20m for incentives including water saving showerheads, tap flow limiters & cistern weights and others methods for the suppling & fitting at minimal cost and leaks to be repaired in South East Queensland.

Initiatives by the Queensland Government have injected \$127m to fund water projects to encourage water saving.

Sydney Water is seeking submissions for the development for a seawater desalination plant to produce up to 500ML per day.

Goulburn-Murray Water has begun drawing down the water level in Laanecoorie Reservoir in a bid to conserve water in Cairn Curran & Tullaroop Reservoirs & maximize water availability.

Running on empty: a city dammed to do without seems to describe the perilous situation with water supplies to Goulburn.

Melburnians will be asked to cut their water use by 30% over the next 15 years to help stave off a looming shortfall in the city's supply.

The Victorian State Government's new sustainable water strategy would fail to save many rivers in central Victoria from over use.

The backer of a bold proposal to solve Perth's water crisis by ferrying water in tankers from the Kimberly says the State Government should also consider transporting supplies from Tasmania.

A new international poll shows Australian's gets top marks for recycling and their concerns over the country's water crisis.

The Australian Government has proposed that, to meet the 2009 target to restore 500 GL of water to the River Murray, participating State Governments buy water from willing sellers on conditions that ensure the water sold does not reduce production capacity of farming communities.

The Queensland Government will be beginning to build 2 more dams and 2 new weir projects to meet the challenges of climate change at a cost of \$1 billion.

The Livingstone Shire Council already reusing 40% of its treated effluent is now aiming for 100% by building a new treatment plant at Yeppoon to help recycle water and better protect the Barrier Reef environment of the Capricorn Coast.

With water storages down to 15% Bendigo is negotiating to buy out an entire irrigation area in the biggest transfer of agricultural water to urban use in Australia. CEO of Goulburn Water said its water strategy included a recycling project for non-potable use, as well as the purchase of irrigation water from either the Campaspe or Goulburn River irrigators.

Gosford City's Mangrove Creek Dam is now down to 16.3% and Central NSW Coast residents also face supply issues.

\$11 million collected through the SA Government water levies to rehabilitate the River Murray remains unspent.

Announcement of a mega dam on the Mary River flooding 7600ha of agricultural land is threatening endangered species is short sighted.

Toowoomba residents will pass up \$46.9m in State and Australian Government funding and risk plunging the city into a \$115m debt if they vote against indirect potable reuse.

Toowoomba is set to introduce level 6 water restrictions (no water to be used outside accept to wash front & rear windscreens and mirrors) on 1st August 2006.