

“SECURING OUR WATER FUTURE IN A DRYING CLIMATE”

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In the past 8 years, Perth has experienced 21% less rainfall than the long-term average, resulting in 64% less runoff into our dams and similarly placing our groundwater sources under threat. CSIRO predicts further drying of the climate for South West Australia.

The Water Corporation is working on a range of options simultaneously to secure water supplies for the future. We call our approach ‘Security through Diversity’. This includes planning for traditional water sources such as dams and groundwater plus a range of other initiatives such as: desalination, catchment management, water recycling, water trading and water conservation & efficiency.

WA’s Integrated Water Supply Scheme supplies 1.5 million people in Perth, Mandurah and the Goldfields. The complex system comprises 15 dams, 8 groundwater schemes and 12 independent artesian bores. Capital investment of \$678 million in new sources over the past decade has increased source capacity by 192 gigalitres, nearly doubling capacity. However, the continued drying trend means further major sources are needed.

We are building a 45 GL/annum seawater desalination plant which when completed in 2006 will boost Perth water supplies by 17%. We have undertaken a \$12 million investigation into a major new groundwater source in the South West.

We are continuing to work with the community to achieve water efficiencies and bring about long-term change. Our range of Waterwise programs includes:

- Waterwise Garden Centres
- Waterwise Plumbers
- Waterwise Irrigators and Irrigation Design Shops
- Waterwise Display Villages
- Waterwise Businesses
- Waterwise Schools

Our programs include research into community attitudes, triple-bottom-line analysis, and demonstration projects of non-drinking water use and management in new urban developments. The Corporation is also progressing major, large-scale wastewater reuse projects, focusing on increasing available drinking water resources.

Our aim is to support the development of Western Australia by adopting a range of sustainable solutions that help us stay ahead of a drying climate.