

## Some Water Facts

- Australians pay around 540 times as much for a litre of bottled water as they do for a litre of household water.
- Every year Australians pay on average four times as much for electricity as for household water.
- On current practices it takes up to 100,000 litres of water to produce a kilo of beef, or around 20 per cent more water than an average Australian consumes in a year.
- Three quarters of our water is used by agriculture, and only 12 per cent is used by our cities.
- Half of Australia's agricultural value is produced using only 12 per cent of our irrigation water supplies.

Australia's system of water delivery is under pressure and urgently needs fixing. The BCA has proposed clear steps to end our man-made water scarcity and unblock our growth potential.

## WATER UNDER PRESSURE

AUSTRALIA'S MAN-MADE WATER SCARCITY  
AND HOW TO FIX IT



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# Our Water Problem

Water scarcity is affecting most Australians. This is restricting our growth and productive output.

**But it doesn't have to be this way.**

Unavoidable water scarcity is one of Australia's greatest myths. Our water system, not the amount of water available for potential use, is the problem.

Many years of poor planning and management have given us a system that turns a sufficient supply of water at its source into scarcity for end-users.

If we were asked to burn candles at night to help avoid blackouts we would not tolerate it. Australians should expect and have a water system that delivers sufficient supplies, rather than ever-increasing water restrictions.

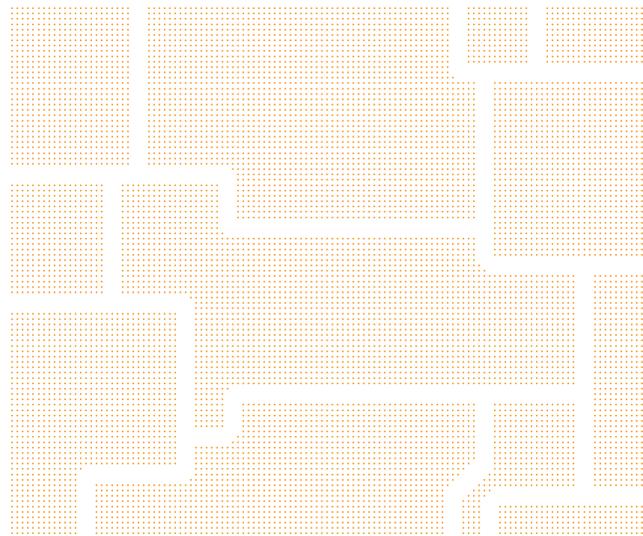
**We can fix our water system to make sure we have:**

- \* Sustainable urban water.
- \* A healthy water environment.
- \* A vibrant agricultural sector.

# A Failed System

Our water supply system is turning a sufficient supply of water into water scarcity in a number of ways, including through:

- \* Poor Government planning for future needs.
- \* A poorly functioning water market.
- \* Barriers to investment in new water infrastructure.
- \* Barriers to water re-use.
- \* Ageing and leaking infrastructure.



# Fixing the Problem

The BCA is proposing a detailed plan to fix Australia's man-made water scarcity.

**We need to:**

- \* Consider all new supply options and make decisions on the basis of economic and environmental evaluations.
- \* Improve the opportunity for water trading.
- \* Allow water supply competition to ensure investment in new infrastructure.
- \* Establish national regulations to enable competition and private sector involvement.
- \* Review water prices to ensure all users pay a fair price.
- \* Provide the capacity to improve the health of our rivers.
- \* Provide financial assistance to enable these reforms if there is structural adjustment required.