

Queensland's water future

Water management across Queensland is a complex process that differs between regions and involves governance at national, state, and local government levels. The Department of Environment and Resource Management and Queensland Health are working to establish a management regime that recognises the connectivity between the different systems involved in providing water for the state. Through an integrated approach across all regions Queensland will meet all of its varying water needs.

Many projects are under way to provide increased security of Queensland's water supply. These include:

- ◆ effective catchment-based water resource planning
- ◆ developing pipeline water grids to link water storages, and to transport water to where it is needed
- ◆ developing alternative water supplies, such as desalination and groundwater
- ◆ recycling water for a range of uses, such as industrial, irrigation and commercial purposes
- ◆ establishing additional water storage by building new dams and raising the height of existing weirs and dams

- ◆ retrofitting homes and buildings with water-saving devices and water storage facilities
- ◆ ensuring that newly constructed homes and buildings are fitted with water-saving devices and water storage facilities
- ◆ reducing pressure and leaks in water mains and water pipes
- ◆ efficiently operating water storages
- ◆ education
- ◆ rebate schemes
- ◆ funding programs
- ◆ legislation.

The source of water has long influenced the style of water resource management in different parts of Queensland. While this will remain the underlying basis for continuing management, a statewide approach based on sustaining all water resources, as well as recognising and respecting the interaction between these different resources, will drive the direction of future water resource management. Recycled water and purified recycled water will become increasingly important, and the sharing of available water resources will assist in overcoming some of the complications and issues surrounding increased urban demand and climate variability.