



# ACT Water Resources Strategy

## PRESSURE ON A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Projected population growth, climate change and pollution pressures on our lakes and waterways will affect the quality and availability of the ACT's water resources into the future.

The ACT is likely to face long-term pressures on its water supply unless reduced water consumption and the use of alternative water sources, such as stormwater and treated effluent, become every day practices.

Wise use of our limited water resources, through careful planning and management is needed to ensure a secure water supply now and into the future.

We also need to put in place management strategies to protect the quality of our water for our own use and also for the ecosystems that depend on water.

## COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

In April 2004, following extensive research and community consultation, the ACT Government released *Think water, act water* — a strategy for water sustainable water resource management in the ACT.

The strategy outlines the key targets and objectives to ensure sustainable management of ACT water resources.

The key targets are:

- achieve a 12 per cent reduction in per person use of mains water by 2013, and a 25 per cent reduction by 2023;
- increase the use of treated wastewater (reclaimed water) to 20 per cent by 2013;

- limit the amount of stormwater flow from newly developed areas to the same amount that flowed before development; and
- the level of nutrients and sediments entering ACT waterways will be no greater than that from a well managed rural landscape.

This comprehensive strategy to secure reliable, quality water for the ACT deals with the following issues:

- water supply;
- water efficiency measures and incentives;
- water quality;
- water reuse;
- water sensitive urban design;
- riparian zone management; and
- aquatic plants and animals.

*Think water, act water* provides a framework for a partnership between the community, industry and government in managing, using and conserving the water resources of the region.

It includes an extensive range of measures, which will ensure water supply security for the ACT, protect and improve ecological values associated with our waterways, and improve the amenity of urban areas.

The strategy outlines a range of initiatives to be put in place to assist Canberrans to increase water efficiency around the home and garden.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on water issues, water efficiency rebates and *Think water, act water* initiatives:

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