



ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Water - its role in supporting WA's economic growth

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Why is water critical to Australia?

- Fundamental to driving Australia's economic development
- Fundamental to supporting regional growth in Australia
- We must decouple growth from unsustainable resource consumption

Why is water is on the agenda in Australia?

- Water consumption has increased by 25%
 - Growth in population
 - Economic demand - mining and agriculture industries
- Continued population growth – estimated 30% increase by 2026 (Source: ABS)
- Extremely challenging conditions for the future:
 - Prolonged drought
 - Impact of climate change (ie. reduced rainfall)
 - Under or over allocation of ground water systems

Western Australia's water challenges in context

- All States implementing NWI but enormous variations in approach and implementation
- WA has unique and scientifically complex challenges compared to eastern seaboard
- Reliance on mixture of underground water (Perth Basin) and surface water Kimberley and South West regions
- Mixed reliance - mining activity and usage (currently 26%) and significant growth in demand forecast to support mining - agriculture 37%, household 18%
- Impact of climate change in WA expected to be severe

Western Australia's water challenges in context (cont'd)

- Salinity in agricultural regions
- Economic growth faster and unique

Leading to risks such as

- Allocation threatening security or under allocation deferring development
- Difficulties can occur system to system – more complex planning, metering, licensing and allocation
- Evidence that some water systems are stressed or over allocated
- Complex water management issues in the resources sector not managed effectively

Moving from a “constraints” view to an “enabler/innovator” approach

- WA has taken the lead already with innovation in water supply and technology (ie. desalination)
- Opportunity for WA to champion modern and worlds best practice water resources management
 - Easy and accessible reporting of water resources
 - Efficient water entitlement and trading system
 - Best practice metering

WA as the enabler of water resources - how do we get there?

- Modernization of institutional arrangements from 2005 through Department of Water
- Policy initiatives and State Water Plan outlining a timeframe for delivery of the Water Reform Agenda
 - Regional planning including statutory water management plans
 - Water access entitlements
 - Metering
 - Water resource management charges
 - Trading and accounting

WA as the enabler of water resources - how do we get there?

- Driving the Water Corporation's key initiatives
 - Adopt innovative solutions to protect WA's water supplies (now and in the future)
 - Non reliance on climate dependant water (eg. rainfall)
 - Investigating treated groundwater to replenish groundwater supplies
 - Active water conservation and demand management campaign

Today's workshop

Explore water's role in supporting our economic growth

- New Governments perspective
- Water reform and its role
- The pressure points and how we address them
- Some scenarios to 2050
- Water markets

Today's programme

Dr Graham Jacobs, WA Minister for Water

Edward Hauck, Manager – Strategic Projects, Department of Water

Roy Stone, Programme Manager, Strategic Water Planning, Department of Water

Sue Murphy, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Water Corporation

Ross Young, Executive Director – Water Services Association of Australia

Lunch – followed by a **panel discussion**