



Australian Government
National Water Commission

2007 National Water Conference

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National Water Commission
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Outline

- About the National Water Initiative
- About the National Water Commission
- What's changed since the NWI
- How's the NWI travelling?
- What needs to go better – “Top Ten”



Australian Government

National Water Commission

National Water Initiative (NWI)

- + National Water Initiative (NWI) signed June 2004
 - + National blueprint for water reform
 - + All jurisdictions are signatories
 - + Builds on previous COAG commitments
 - + Detailed framework of actions for reform
 - + The majority of actions are to be undertaken by the signatory parties (States/ Territories)
 - + Many requiring a collaborative approach required to achieve a nationally consistent outcome



What is the NWI trying to do?

- Reform 200 years of practice
- Consolidate in one document the whole of water reform
- Find a national approach among many different players
- Integrate production and environment
- Integrate science and economics
- Deal with both urban and rural issues
- Keep water reform at the front of national public policy



Basic Policy Objectives

- Water security
- Water for the environment
- Sustainable supply
- Tradability of water
- Water Use efficiency
- Better metering, measurement and accounting
- Adjustment to change



The National Water Commission - Roles

Drive national water reform

1. Advance the COAG National Water Initiative
2. Advise on, and administer, the Australian Government Water Fund



What has the NWC been doing?

- + 67 WSA projects; \$1.375b committed
- + 81 RNWS projects; \$103m committed
- + National Competition Policy Assessment Report
- + AWR 2005 Stages 1 and 2
- + Prime Minister's Seasonal Outlook Report
- + Performance Report – Major Urban Utilities
- + Waterlines Reports
- + Biennial Assessment of NWI progress



What's changed since the NWI?

- A transition from policy to implementation
- The rise and rise of climate change / drought
- Emergence of major urban supply planning issues
- Potable re-use, desal, stormwater capture and other “radical” options
- New Commonwealth Minister and portfolio arrangements
- Changing Commonwealth / State roles
- Prime Minister's National Water Security Plan
- Significant increase in policy priority and available \$ resources



The NWI: What's going well?

- Still the primary national blueprint for reform
- Already delivering real improvements
- Policy prescriptions still widely accepted
- Implementation now well in train



“Top Ten”

1. Real action on overallocation
2. Develop our environmental managers to match the NWI vision
3. Complete the water plans and account for climate change
4. Embed water trading
5. Get a grip on groundwater



“Top Ten” ... *continued*

6. Start the hard work on water interception
7. Transform Australia’s water data and accounting
8. Tackle the skills shortage in water
9. Institutionalise re-use and recycling throughout Australia
10. Renew the urban reform agenda



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www.nwc.gov.au

www.water.gov.au