



# Defence Estate Water Policy

## Vision

Defence will drive efficiency in water management to maintain capability, reduce costs, and increase water security.

## Context

Water is a critical requirement for Defence to maintain and enhance its capability and as such Defence is committed to best practice water management. Efficient and effective water management is fundamental to Defence.

Water management is a priority for Government. The Water for the Future initiative shows the Government's commitment to water management and involves: taking action on climate change; using water wisely; securing water supplies; and supporting healthy rivers. This initiative is also driving water reform in the Murray-Darling Basin, to deliver healthy rivers, strong communities and sustainable food production. Defence, being a significant user of water, has a key role to play in supporting this Government commitment.

Reducing water consumption through increased efficiency and leak minimisation will lead to monetary savings for Defence. Additionally, using fit-for-purpose options will enhance water security and maintain capability.

The scope of this Policy covers:

- Water efficiency, including reduction of leaks and wastage
- Integrated water management, including water recycling and security of supply
- Measurement/Metering

This Policy, combined with the Defence Environmental Policy and the Defence Environmental Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 will ensure Defence will be a leader in sustainable environmental management to support the ADF's capability to defend Australia and its national interests.



## Water Commitment

Defence is committed to:

- Improving water security to maintain and enhance capability
- Integrating resource efficiency into activities, business processes and decisions
- Exploring fit-for-purpose water options
- Innovative best practice approaches to water management
- Measuring and monitoring water consumption
- Meeting reporting and other requirements of Commonwealth Government Policy

## Objectives

### Objective 1: Less Water

Reduce the water requirement for Defence by maximising water efficiency in all aspects of Defence business.

### Objective 2: Integrated Water Management

Consider water holistically at a base/precinct level and transition to fit-for-purpose water supply to provide more sustainable and secure water sources.

### Objective 3: Measuring and Monitoring Water

Ensure infrastructure and processes are in place to be able to measure and manage Defences water consumption effectively.

## Implementation Framework

This policy will be delivered through a comprehensive Estate Water Strategy and Implementation plan. The Strategy and Implementation Plans will contain actions for all Groups and Services.

Both this Policy and the Strategy and Implementation Plan will be reviewed regularly (minimum every 3 years) to ensure current legislation, operations, practices and technologies are reflected.

Michael Healy  
A/HEAD INFRASTRUCTURE

