

Desalination: Keystone of Victoria's Water Plan

After twelve years of drought, the Victorian Government faces a difficult and complicated problem: how to secure water for Victorians in response to population growth and the effects of climate change.

We are responding to the challenge by adopting a wide range of measures to protect our households and businesses, as well as our precious environment, from the worst impacts of this chronic water shortage.

The Victorian Water Plan comprises a suite of augmentation, conservation and recycling projects. The Next Stage of the Government's Water Plan involves five key elements:

- The **Victorian Desalination Project**, which will provide up to 150 billion litres of non-rainfall dependent water for Melbourne, Geelong and towns in Western Port and South Gippsland every year from 2011.
- The **Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project** to deliver a \$2 billion program of works to modernise and upgrade leaky, old irrigation infrastructure in northern Victoria to reduce water losses and secure the region's vital role as the state's food production powerhouse.
- Expanding **Victoria's Water Grid**, a series of pipelines, rivers and channels to move water to where we need it, when we need it.
- Increasing **recycling**, including upgrading the Eastern Treatment Plant to recycle more than 100 billion litres of water per year for use in industry or to help ailing rivers.
- Supporting new and existing household and industrial **conservation** projects.

Recycling

The upgrade of the Eastern Treatment Plant will be completed during 2012 and possible uses of the recycled water are currently under review. The most likely options include using the water to cool the Latrobe Valley power generators, to improve environmental flows in the Yarra River. Both of these options would relieve pressure on our water supplies by freeing up water for household and business purposes.

Melbourne is recycling more water than ever before. In 2007/08, Melbourne was recycling 23.2% of its wastewater, two years ahead of the Government target of recycling 20% by 2010.

Conservation

The Government supports new and existing conservation projects through a range of funds, including the \$20 million Smart Water Fund, which offers funding to businesses and community groups who undertake water saving initiatives.

In November 2008, the Government launched a new water saving campaign to reduce Melbourne's average residential consumption to less than 155 litres per person per day.

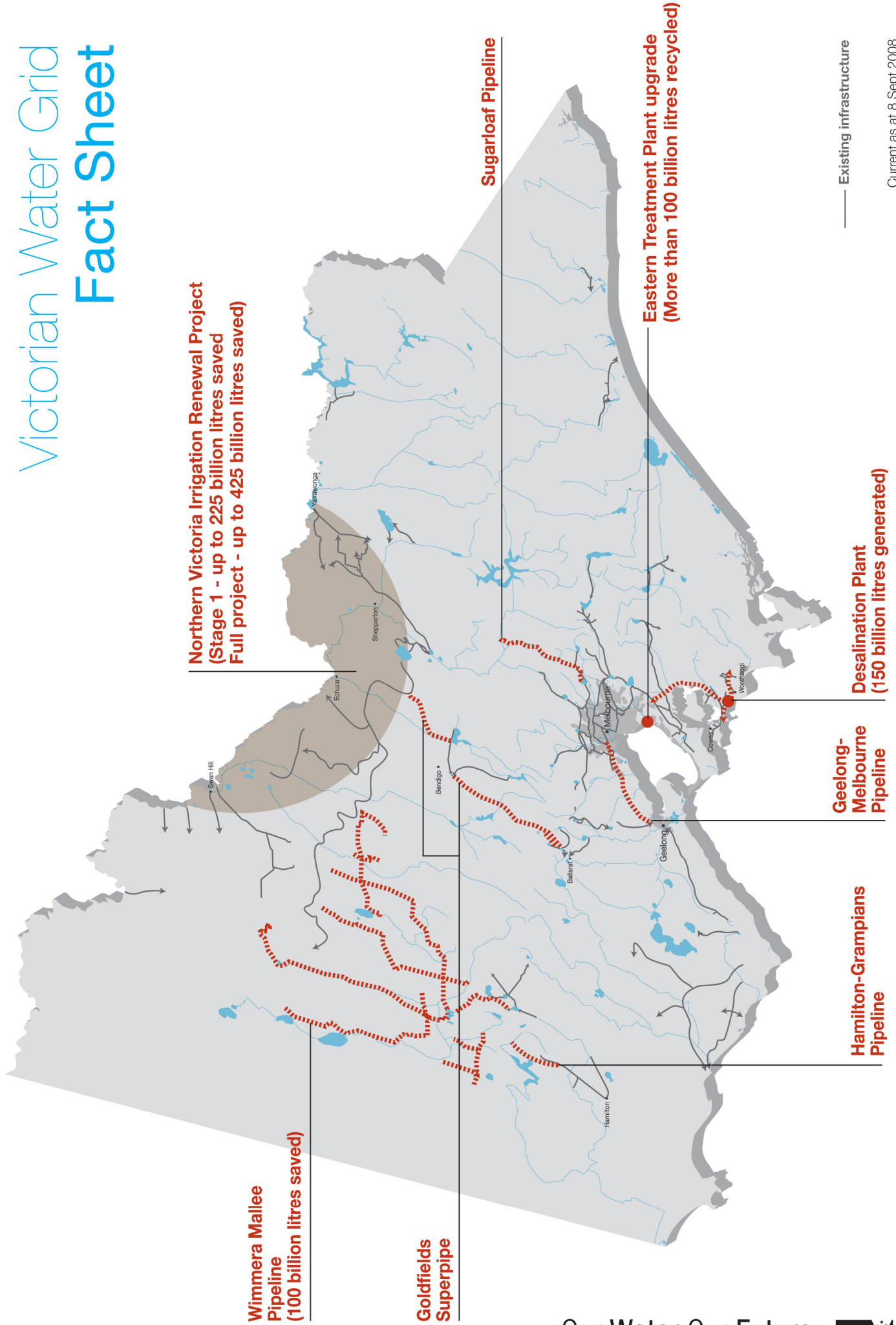
Conservation efforts extend to business and industry with all large water users (more than 10 million litres a year) now required to have a water management action plan (waterMAP) to reduce their water use.

Rainwater tanks

Rainwater tanks are a great way to drought-proof the home. The Government has provided rebates of up to \$1000 to over 25,000 Victorian households that have installed rainwater tanks. However, with decreasing rainfall and Melbourne's densely populated areas, rainwater tanks alone cannot sustain Melbourne's water requirements.

For more information on the Government's Water Plan visit www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

Victorian Water Grid Fact Sheet



— Existing infrastructure
Current as at 8 Sept. 2008