



# Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy

## Fact Sheet 9

### Water for homes, business and industry

Regional towns and cities need the confidence that they will continue to have access to a safe and reliable water supply, to support existing households and regional growth. Water security provides the impetus for business, industry and people to base themselves in northern Victoria.

By reinforcing water policies to secure water for the next 50 years, this Strategy ensures people in the Northern Region will continue to have access to safe and reliable drinking water.

Managing the supply of and demand for water has changed in response to drought. Urban water corporations have taken action to supplement supplies and to work with customers and communities to lower the demand for water. Water corporations use staged restrictions in times of shortages, and a qualification of rights is currently used to make sure water corporations can supply critical human needs in extreme drought.

- update drought response plans to ensure their continued effectiveness in severe and prolonged drought
- continue to help customers use water more efficiently
- encourage customers to use alternative water supplies such as rainwater tanks and grey water reuse systems.

#### Key actions to safeguard our future

The Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy introduces specific actions to secure urban water supplies, without the need to take water away from other entitlement-holders:

- introduce flexible carryover so water corporations can ensure sufficient supplies for urban growth and acceptable service levels
- expand the water grid to connect urban centres and piped supply systems for reliable reticulated water supplies to domestic and stock users

#### What happens if we do nothing - a future with less water

Under the water scenarios for the next 50 years, if no change is made communities will face more severe water restrictions, more often. There would be more instances where a qualification of rights was required to ensure the supply of critical human needs, which would create more uncertainty for entitlement-holders.