



10

This chapter describes how the Strategy will be implemented, funded and reviewed.

Delivering the Strategy




Guide to the chapter

Section 10.1 Implementation responsibilities

- Paying for the Strategy
- Impacts on water pricing and service

Section 10.2 Reviewing the Strategy

Key points of the chapter

-  Responsibility for implementing the Strategy sits with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, rural and urban water corporations and catchment management authorities.
-  No Strategy actions require large capital investment, however some actions may result in water corporations reviewing their water pricing arrangements.
-  Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will allow us to adapt our management approach when the Strategy is reviewed. The first review will occur by 2019 before the 15-year resource review and the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in Victoria.

10.1 Implementation responsibilities

Many organisations are involved in water management in the Northern Region and all have a part to play in implementing this Strategy. Key responsibilities will rest with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, rural and urban water corporations and catchment management authorities. Implementation and timing are outlined with each of the specific actions in Chapters 3 to 9. There is a statutory requirement for the Department of Sustainability and Environment to report on the implementation of this Strategy in its annual report, which is tabled in Parliament.

10.1.1 Paying for the Strategy

No Strategy actions will require large capital investment; rather, the Strategy establishes or improves water policy and regulatory arrangements. As such, many actions will align with existing responsibilities within the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Actions of a strategic nature may need additional investment, including through the Environment Contribution Levy (for example, the VEWI and Sustainable Irrigation Program will receive funding from the levy). Actions involving catchment management authorities will be implemented through existing funding arrangements, or with the assistance of the Department, negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Where actions are delegated to water corporations, costs may be recovered through water pricing arrangements.

10.1.2 Impact on water pricing

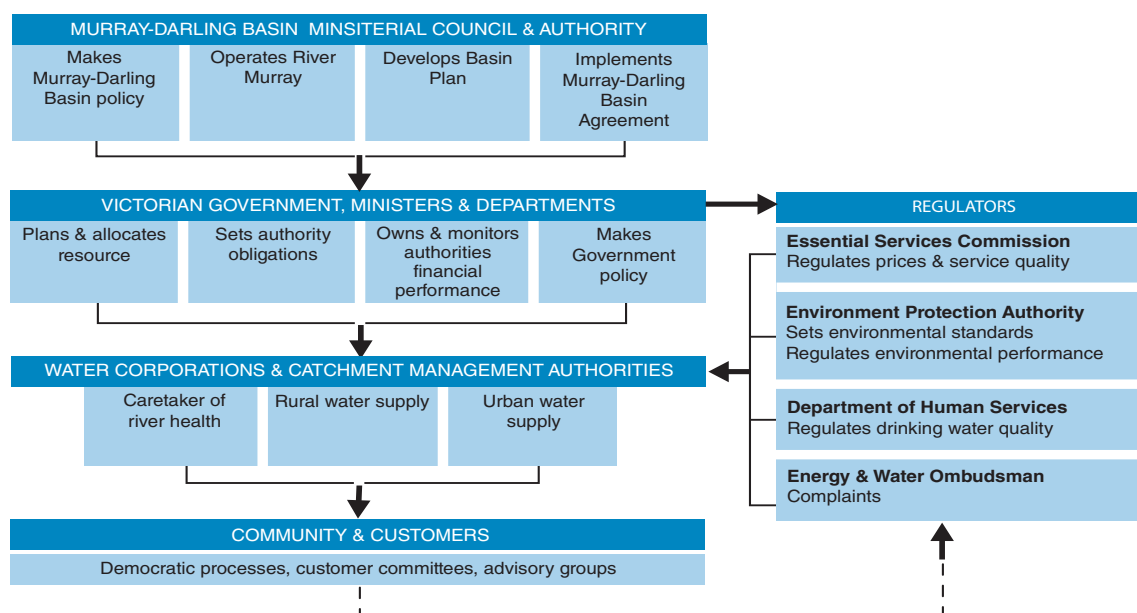
Water prices must be fair and independently managed. A framework for improved water pricing principles was outlined in *Our Water Our Future*, including:

- pricing structures that reward water conservation and efficiency and where possible to use water of a quality that is fit for purpose
- requiring water corporations to contribute funding towards water-related initiatives to improve water resource management across Victoria
- having water prices that fully recover the costs of sustainably managing water resources.

The ESC is the independent economic regulator of the water industry and is responsible for protecting the long-term interests of Victorian customers. Every five years, each water corporation must submit a water plan to the ESC. The water plan describes how they will deliver projects and service standards, the revenue required to do this, and an outline of proposed customer charges. The ESC publicly reviews these plans and then approves a package of prices and services the businesses must provide.

In addition to general pricing reviews, water corporations within the Northern Region will need to review the implementation actions assigned to them within this Strategy and determine how and when the costs should be recovered, including whether it would seek approval from the ESC to amend its current water plan and prices or seek to recover the costs as part of the next price review.

Figure 10.1 Roles and responsibilities in water resource management



10.2 Reviewing the Strategy

An adaptive management approach is critical to managing future certainties about water availability. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will allow the management approach to be amended when the Strategy is reviewed. This gives the community the opportunity to respond to changing conditions with increased capacity and knowledge.

Under the *Water Act 1989*, the Minister for Water may review the Strategy at any stage, but it must be reviewed at least every 10 years. It is proposed that the first review will be completed by 2019 before Victoria's first 15-year resource review and the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in Victoria (see page 11).



Cormorant, Cobram

Photographer: Bruce Cumming

Further information

Information about the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy is available from:

Department of Sustainability and Environment
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www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern

Information regarding local water resource planning (including information about water supply/demand strategies) is available directly from water corporations:

Goulburn-Murray Water
(03) 5833 5500
www.g-mwater.com.au

Lower Murray Water
(03) 5051 3400
www.lmw.vic.gov.au

Coliban Water
1300 363 200
www.coliban.com.au

Goulburn Valley Water
(03) 5832 0400
www.gvwater.vic.gov.au

Central Highlands Water
(03) 5320 3100
www.chw.net.au

North East Water
1300 361 622
www.nerwa.vic.gov.au

Information regarding river and catchment health (including copies of regional river health strategies) is available from catchment management authorities:

Mallee Catchment Management Authority
(03) 5051 4377
www.malleecma.vic.gov.au

North Central Catchment Management Authority
(03) 5448 7124
www.nccma.vic.gov.au

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
(03) 5820 1100
www.gbccma.vic.gov.au

North East Catchment Management Authority
(02) 6043 7600
www.necma.vic.gov.au

Information regarding planning and management in the Murray-Darling Basin is available from:

Murray-Darling Basin Authority
(02) 6279 0100
www.mdba.gov.au

Information regarding climate data (including forecasts and seasonal outlooks) is available from:

Bureau of Meteorology
(03) 9669 4000
www.bom.gov.au

South Eastern Australian Climate Initiative (SEACI)
<http://www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/seaci/>

Victoria's climate change program
<http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/index.html>

Other useful community contacts:

Waterwatch
(03) 9637 9768
www.vic.waterwatch.org.au

Landcare
1800 151 105
www.landcareonline.com.au



Letterboxes

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