

GLOSSARY

ANZSIC	The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) is the standard classification used in Australia and New Zealand for the collection, compilation, and publication of statistics by industry.
Aquifer	A geologic formation which is capable of holding water and through which water can percolate. Aquifers are capable of yielding quantities of groundwater for economic activities.
Australian Water Resources 2005 (AWR 2005)	Australian Water Resources 2005 is the baseline assessment of water resources for the National Water Initiative.
Bulk water	Water supplied by a water provider to another water provider.
Bulk entitlement	A type of water access entitlement in Victoria, issued to rural and regional water authorities, who then distribute the water to their rural and urban customers, to some electricity generating companies and to the State Minister for Environment.
Cap on water diversions	The limit imposed on the volume of surface water which can be diverted from rivers for consumptive uses.
Catchment	The area of land determined by topographic features, within which rainfall will contribute to run-off at a particular point. The catchment for a major river and its tributaries is usually referred to as a River basin. A map of Australian River basins is included in Appendix 3.
Commercial water use	Water used primarily for basic water supply and sanitation purposes, including use by offices, schools, hospitals, apartment buildings, hotels and resorts, restaurants, and retail stores.
Consumptive pool	The amount of water resource that can be made available for consumptive use in a given water system under the rules of the relevant water plan.
Consumptive use	The use of water for private benefit consumptive purposes including irrigation, industry, urban and stock and domestic use (NWI definition). This is different to the definition of water consumption used in this publication.
Cooling water	Water used for cooling purposes (e.g., for electricity generation).
Desalination	A process where salt is removed from water with a high salt content (usually seawater but sometimes other brackish water) to make it suitable for domestic or industrial use.
Discharge	The transfer of water or waste water (of any treatment level) from the control of a water supplier or user to the environment.
Distributed water	Distributed water is water supplied to a user including through a non-natural network (piped or open channel), and where an economic transaction has occurred for the exchange of this water. The majority of distributed water is supplied by the WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SERVICES industry (ANZSIC group 3701). The water supply component consists of units mainly engaged in storage, purification or distribution of water by pipeline or carrier. It also includes the operation of irrigation systems that supply water to a farm and the supply of steam and hot water.
Domestic or residential water supply	Water supplied primarily to domestic or residential customers. In rural areas this includes water supplied for stock and domestic uses.

Drainage division	Drainage divisions comprise 12 areas defined by drainage patterns following major topographic features covering the whole of the Australian continent. Drainage divisions are sub-divided into 77 drainage regions and 245 river basins. These smaller sub-areas within a drainage division are based on groups of rivers and individual rivers respectively. A map of Australian Drainage divisions is included in Appendix 3.
Drainage services	The collection of water through a regional network of surface and/or subsurface drains. This water may be reused or discharged to the environment.
Drainage water	Excess surface or subsurface water collected and conveyed from irrigated lands. It may be captured for reuse or conveyed for downstream demands.
Ecological water requirement	A description of the water regimes needed to maintain ecological values of water dependent ecosystems at a low level of risk. They are used in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania (however, Tasmania uses the term "Environmental Water Requirements").
Effluent discharge	The discharge of used water by an organisation into the environment, with its associated quality characteristics, including, for example, the temperature of the discharge.
Environmental allocation	An amount of water allocated for environmental purposes and released to meet the environmental needs of a given area, e.g. a forest.
Environmental flow	This is a general term that can have a variety of meanings, including Environmental Water Provisions (defined below). The 2000-01 Water Account, Australia and the ABS 2004-05 Water Supply Survey defined environmental flows to be: water delivered (released) for the purpose of the environment in accordance with a specific plan prepared in conjunction with and/or approved by the appropriate environmental (resource) regulator.
Environmental water provisions	The water regimes that are provided as a result of the water allocation decision-making process, taking into account ecological, social and economic impacts. They aim to meet in part or in full, the ecological water requirements. They are used in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.
Environmental water requirement	See Ecological Water Requirements.
Environmental water reserve	The share of water resources set aside to maintain the environmental values of a water system in Victoria.
Estuary	The part of a river in which water levels are affected by sea tides, and where fresh water and salt water mix.
Evapotranspiration	Process of moisture loss to the atmosphere from plants by transpiration and evaporation.
Gigalitre	One thousand million litres.
Gross State Product (GSP)	GSP is defined equivalently to gross domestic product. It is the total market value of goods and services produced in a state within a given period after deducting the cost of goods and services used up in the process of production but before deducting allowances for the consumption of fixed capital.
Groundwater	Water occurring below the ground's surface.
Industry Gross Value Added (IGVA)	The value of an industry's output at basic prices, minus the value of goods and services consumed as inputs during the process of production. Basic prices valuation of output removes the distortion caused by variations in commodity taxes and subsidies across the output of individual industries.
In-stream use	The use of freshwater in situ (e.g. within a river or stream). Can include recreation, tourism, scientific and cultural uses, ecosystem maintenance, hydro-electricity and commercial activities, and dilution of waste. The volume of water required for most in-stream uses cannot be quantified, with the exception of hydro-electricity generation.

Inland surface water	All waters on the surface of the earth, excluding sea water. Includes lakes, rivers, dams, wetlands, snow and ice.
Irrigation	Water artificially applied to soils (i.e., does not include precipitation/rainfall).
Irrigation/Rural water provider	A water provider undertaking the supply of retail irrigation water in rural areas. Functions of irrigation/rural water providers include the delivery of water for the purpose of irrigation and the collection of drainage off agricultural land through surface or sub-surface drainage systems. In addition most supply water for stock and domestic purposes and either bulk or reticulated water to service rural towns. Delivery systems can range from channel/canal to pipes to carriers and natural streams/water courses.
Kilolitre	One thousand litres.
Major urban water provider (Metropolitan)	An urban water provider servicing >50,000 water or sewerage connections. A connection corresponds to a water meter or sewerage connection regardless of the type of customer.
Megalitre	One million litres.
Minor urban water provider	An urban water provider servicing <10,000 water or sewerage connections. A connection corresponds to a water meter or sewerage connection regardless of the type of customer.
Murray Darling Basin Cap	The limit imposed on the volume of surface water which can be diverted from rivers for consumptive uses. Started in 1995 as the Interim Cap.
National Water Initiative (NWI)	An intergovernmental agreement on water reform created in June 2004.
Net water supply	The quantity of water supplied to customers of the water provider. This comprises the distributed water supply less: losses, water provided for environmental benefits, and, water used directly by the industry.
Non-major urban water provider	An urban water provider servicing between 10,000 and 50,000 water or sewerage connections. A connection corresponds to a water meter or sewerage connection regardless of the type of customer.
Other water provider	An organisation that supplies water but whose main activity is in an industry other than the WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SERVICES industry (eg. MINING OR MANUFACTURING).
Permanent water trading	A transaction that permanently affects some aspect of a water access entitlement, such as changes to the ownership, water source, size of share, or reliability.
Primary treatment	Treatment of waste water that involves the screening of solids from waste water allowing a proportion of solids and organic matter to settle and be removed by sedimentation tanks.
Process water	Water used in the production of goods or the provision of services. For example, water use in the production of food, cleaning in industrial production, or water used in laundry facilities.
Recycled water	Recycled water is any water that is reused by the same organisation on-site after it has been used once, or water that would normally go down the drain but is used for another purpose.
Regulated discharge	Water discharged after use where that discharge does not match the natural flow regime of the receiving water body. For example, waste water discharged into a river, ocean or land outfall by a sewerage service provider is considered a regulated discharge. Water discharged from a household is not considered to be a regulated discharge because it is usually discharged into a sewerage system.
Regulated flow	A controlled flow rate resulting from the influence of a regulating structure, such as a dam or weir.

Reuse water	Drainage, waste or storm water that has been used again without first being discharged to the environment. It may have been treated to some extent.
River basin	The 245 River basins in Australia are defined by the area drained by a stream and its tributaries where surface run-off collects. In an area of uncoordinated drainage, drainage patterns define a basin. A map of Australian River basins is included in Appendix 3.
Run-off	The part of precipitation in a given area and period of time that appears as stream flow.
SEEA	SEEA is the System for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting. It is a framework used to develop environmental accounts by integrating environmental information into an accounting framework. The SEEA publication provides the conceptual basis for developing a framework to describe the interrelationship between the natural environment and the economy.
SEEAW	SEEAW is the International System for Environmental and Economic Accounting for Water. It is an elaboration of the SEEA and provides a conceptual framework for organising hydrological and economic information in a coherent and consistent framework. The latest draft was released for comment in November 2006.
Secondary treatment	Treatment of waste water that utilises biological processes to oxidise remaining organic matter dissolved or suspended within primary treated effluent.
Sewerage	Infrastructure used to remove sewage (waste water).
Storm water	Rainfall that is collected after it has run off urban surfaces.
Surface water	Water flowing or held in streams, rivers and other wetlands in the landscape.
System of National Accounts (SNA)	The System of National Accounts (SNA) is an international framework which can be used to develop a comprehensive, consistent and flexible set of macro-economic accounts.
Temporary water trading	A transaction that affects only the seasonal water allocation associated with a water access entitlement.
Tertiary treatment	Treatment of waste water in which secondary treated effluent is processed through a number of processes to remove additional nutrients: including coagulation, flocculation and clarification.
Total water use	Total water use is equal to distributed water use plus self-extracted water use plus reuse water use.
Treated waste water	See primary, secondary and tertiary treatment.
Urban water provider	Includes major, non-major and minor urban water provider.
Waste water	Any water that has been used once and cannot be used again without treatment, for example untreated effluent, sewage water and trade waste.
Water access entitlement	A perpetual or ongoing entitlement to exclusive access to a share of water from a specified consumptive pool as defined in the relevant water plan.
Water allocation	The specific volume of water allocated to water access entitlements in a given season, defined according to rules established in the relevant water plan.
Water consumption	Water consumption is equal to distributed water use plus self-extracted water use plus reuse water use minus distributed water supplied to other users minus in-stream use (where applicable).
Water extracted	Water extracted directly from the environment for use (including rivers, lakes, groundwater and other bodies). Some of this water may be then distributed via water providers to others. Excludes water supplied by water providers via regulated systems.
Water license	A type of water access entitlement.

Water losses	Water that enters the water distribution system of a water provider that does not reach the end users/customers. Water losses can be attributed to seepage, leakage, evaporation(excluding evaporation from water storages), meter inaccuracies and theft.
Water plan	Statutory plans for surface and/or groundwater systems, developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the basis of best scientific and socio-economic assessment, to provide secure ecological outcomes and resource security for users.
Water provider	A business or organisation that provides a reticulated water supply, irrigation water, reuse/recycle water and/or bulk water supply service. Water providers may be government or private and often operate water storage, purification and supply services. They may also provide sewerage or drainage services.
Water right	A type of water access entitlement in Victoria issued to individuals in rural water authority supplied irrigation districts.
Water stocks	Surface and groundwater resources available in Australia for economic and environmental use.
Water source	The location from which water is withdrawn by an organisation.
Water system	A system that is hydrologically connected and described at the level desired for management purposes (eg sub-catchment, catchment, basin or drainage division and/or groundwater management unit, sub-aquifer, aquifer, groundwater basin).
Water trading	Transactions involving water access entitlements or water allocations assigned to water access entitlements.
Water treatment plant	An individual location receiving raw or partially treated water for treatment and ultimate delivery to customers. There may be more than one water treatment plant at an individual facility. Secondary or booster disinfection plants are not included, even where they have pH treatment. Water treatment plants that provide fluoridation only should be classified as disinfection only.

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