



Media release

The Hon Peter Walsh MP

Minister for Agriculture and Food Security
Minister for Water

Thursday 10 November 2011

New water strategy for western Victoria released

Water Minister Peter Walsh has today released a comprehensive water management plan for Victoria's western region.

The Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy maps out the region's water resources and the challenges and opportunities facing all water users over the next 50 years.

"The availability and management of water in western Victoria will have a direct and lasting impact on economic growth," Mr Walsh said.

The strategy aims to make the best use of water resources in different parts of the region, to protect the environment and be ready to manage the challenges of a variable climate and future droughts.

The development of the strategy was overseen by the Western Region Consultative Committee, which was chaired by Daryl Argall.

Mr Argall said the committee had consulted widely, receiving 272 submissions from food producers, townspeople, industry, councils, environmental advocates, local community groups and interest groups.

"We sought to balance security of supply for urban and rural users, environmental needs and the protection of water resources for future use," Mr Argall said.

"I believe the strategy will help us meet the challenges and grasp the opportunities ahead."

Mr Walsh thanked the community for getting involved in the initiative and the committee for the enormous amount of work it put into the plan.

"Regional communities have a vested interest in the way water is managed and used in the future because it underwrites their livelihoods," Mr Walsh said.

"I hope this strategy will improve investment confidence and conditions by giving more certainty to water entitlement holders."

The strategy can be found at <http://www.water.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/western>

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