

National Water Reform Report Released

The National Water Commission released their reform report earlier this month. There has been a lot of work done so far to secure Australia's water future. This work includes:

Actions under the National Water Initiative have been making water use more secure and sustainable New state regulations on how water is shared now provide clear directions for communities and industries. With water trading, farmers can now buy or sell water depending on their need, seasonal conditions and commodity prices.

Governments have been buying water as a cost-effective way to return water to wetlands. However, NWC has called on Governments to meet their previous commitment to ensure wetlands receive a fair share of water. There are still many more opportunities for ongoing sustainable water management.

Importance of continual reform to safeguard Australia There's a need to consider future flood or drought risks and increased competition for water from growing populations and booming resources industries.

Here is a selection of the 12 recommendations which KJA think are particularly relevant to the sectors that we and our clients work in:

- More community involvement in water planning and management
- Closer investigation into mining and petroleum regulatory arrangements to ensure that water resource impacts are addressed explicitly
- Calls for new national water science and urban water management strategies to ensure a unified approach
- New independent water reform assessment body



For the full report:

http://www.nwc.gov.au/resources/documents/2011-BiennialAssessment-full_report.pdf