

SUBMISSION - National Water Reform 2024

To address the impacts of Climate Changes, Australia needs urgent water reform objectives to be implemented with measurable actions and backed by mandatory Nationwide policy to ensure they are adhered to and effective.

As there is an urgent need to radically limit (or stop) the amount of potable water commercial enterprises, industrial applications and mining can take out of the system. These sectors should only have access to re-cycled water or non-potable water. Unless it is needed solely and specifically for drinking water. This should also include prohibiting mining activities in our forests, nature reserves and designated water catchment areas.

Also, all residential properties should have to have a water tank for gardening purposes and receive a rebate for having waterwise gardens.

There has also been a consistent lack of accounting for environmental externalities, when pricing water and allocating water rights to corporations and overseas interests. This needs to be corrected now. As the cost of replacing a potable water source once it is contaminated or depleted is enormous and impracticable.

Further water rights should NOT ever be sold to overseas interests this is a serious security risk and significantly diminishes the Australian community's and the environments, ability to survive climate change and thrive.

Further potable water is a basic human right. Fresh water is also vital for all the flora and fauna we share Australia with. Water bodies also have a significant cultural importance for First Nations peoples.

To protect our precious water resources please urgently;

- END foreign access to water rights at the expense of Australian citizens and the environment;
- STOP allowing industry to have access to potable water for non-drinking purposes;
- STOP activities which risk contaminating our water resources, like fracking which contaminates underground water sources (there are plenty of other energy alternatives); and
- BAN land clearing, as this decreases the levels of hydrology in the landscape and results in rising salinity.

Finally - Please hurry to make these changes Nationally before it's too late!

Kind regards

Karen Oborn