

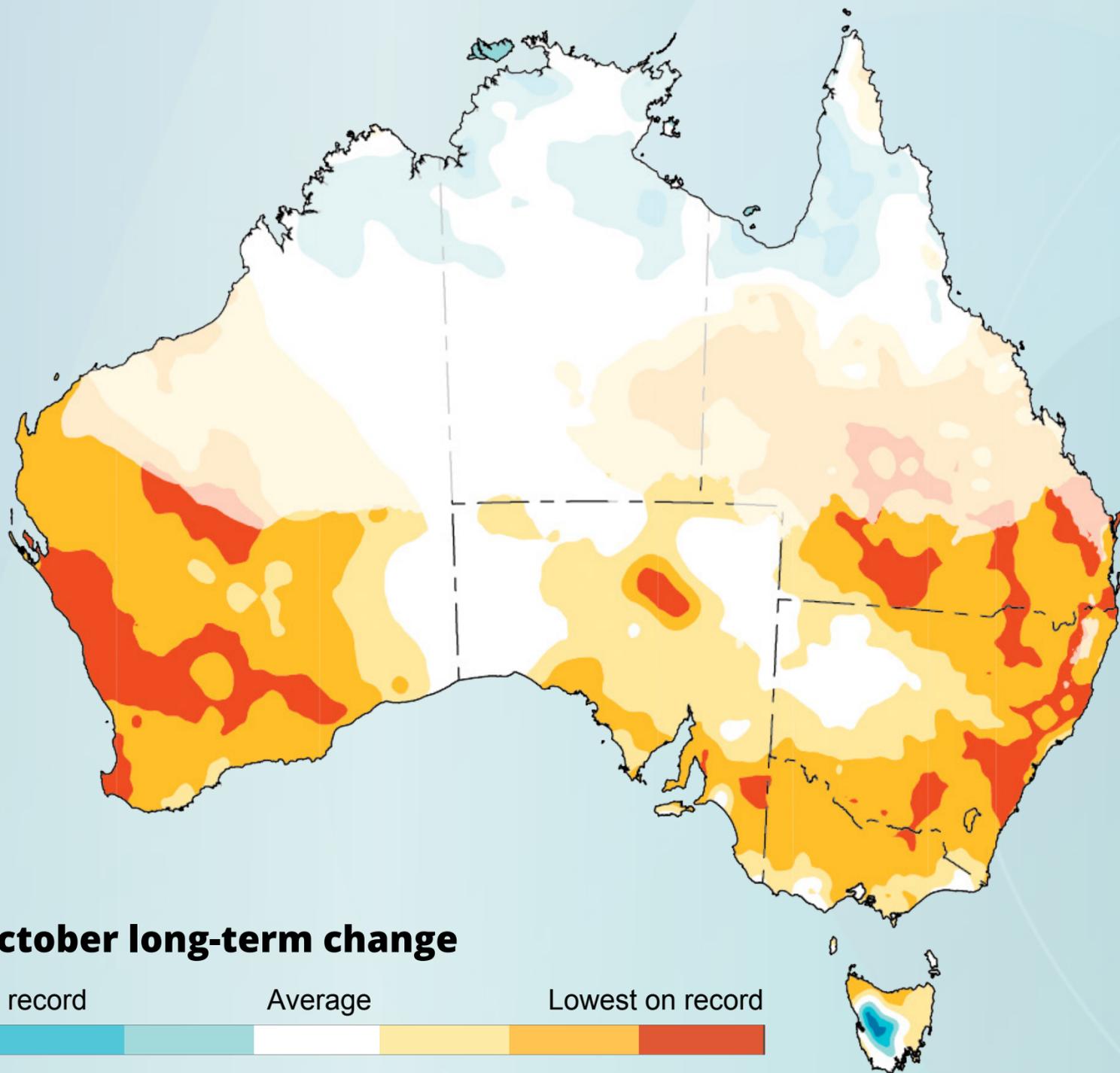
The 2004 National Water Initiative has served Australia well as a foundation for water management.

A renewed and updated NWI will help governments navigate growing **water security challenges**

Productivity Commission Interim report:
National Water Reform 2024

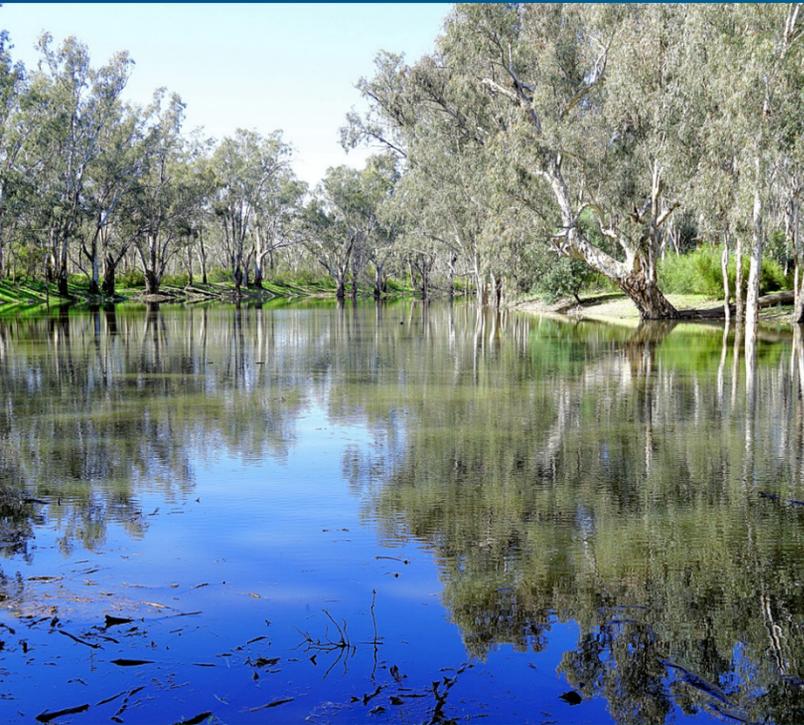


Climate change is making rainfall less reliable, creating drying trends, and increasing the number of extreme weather events



Source: (BOM 2022b).

...our demand for water is growing and changing





...And Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's cultural responsibility for water and involvement in water management is not sufficiently recognised and supported



**We need a renewed agreement
that builds on the 2004 NWI
to meet community expectations
and address our growing challenges**

Address the effects of climate change

Empower First Nations people

**Prepare for growing and
changing water demand**

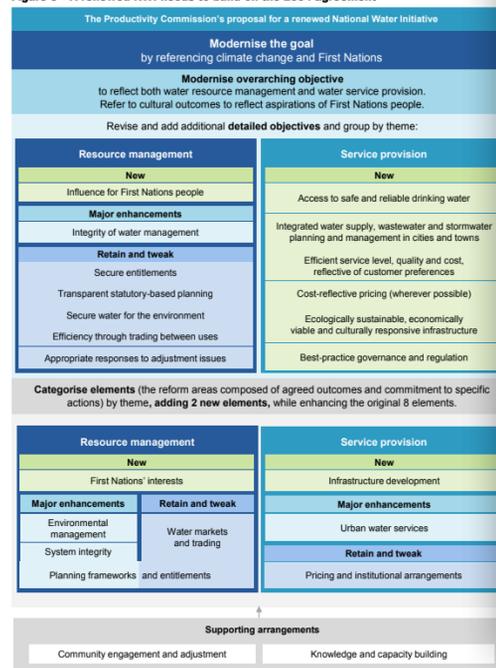
2004 National Water Initiative

Read the full interim report to learn more about our recommendations for a revitalised National Water Initiative

National Water Reform 2024

Interim report

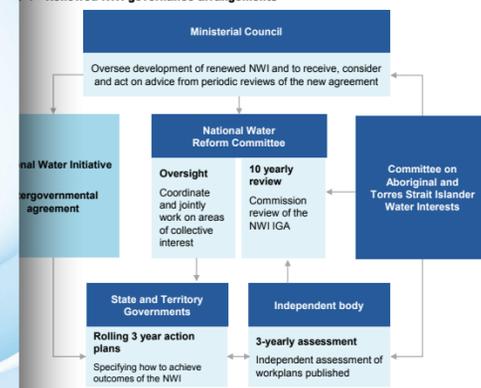
Figure 3 – A renewed NWI needs to build on the 2004 agreement



Source: Adapted from (PC 2021c, pp. 46, 49–50, 52–53, 55–56).

This is a draft report prepared for further public consultation and input. The Commission will finalise its report after these processes have taken place.

Figure 4 – Renewed NWI governance arrangements



Adapted from (PC 2021c, pp. 59–66).

Enhanced commitment to First Nations' participation in water management

NWI does not adequately recognise the water interests of First Nations

The NWI has limited focus on the water interests of First Nations Australians. Element 1 focuses on 'access to water resources' via planning processes for water allocations for narrowly defined 'cultural purposes' only, without the incorporation of social, spiritual and customary objectives – and strategies for achieving them – in planning, wherever they can be developed³. The NWI does not specifically address the achievement of First Nations' economic objectives through water.

The Commission's 2021 report noted the NWI's shortcomings and pointed out that even with this lack of focus, 17 years later the NWI actions had not been met (PC 2021a, pp. 42–44). Since 2021, and despite commitments signing the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in 2020 and committing to implementing its four priority reforms, including reform one – formal partnerships and shared decision-making – engagement

³ NWI paragraph 52

You can also **share
your views** in a
submission to help
inform our final report

pc.gov.au/water-reform-2024

