

# NSW Water Strategy: Towards 2050

Core objectives	 Protecting public health and safety	 Liveable and vibrant towns and cities	 Water sources, floodplains and ecosystems protected	 Cultural values respected and protected	 Orderly fair and equitable sharing of water	 Contribute to a strong economy	
<b>Priorities and actions</b>	<b>Priority 1</b> Build community confidence and capacity through engagement, transparency and accountability	<b>1.1</b> Improve engagement, collaboration and understanding <b>1.2</b> Increase the amount and quality of publicly available information about water in NSW <b>1.3</b> Enhance modelling capabilities and make more data and models openly available <b>1.4</b> Reinforce the effectiveness of the Natural Resources Access Regulator <b>1.5</b> Take the final steps in floodplain harvesting reform <b>1.6</b> Review the regulation of domestic and stock basic landholder rights <b>1.7</b> Make sure the majority of non-urban water take in NSW is accurately measured					
	<b>Priority 2</b> Recognise First Nations/Aboriginal People's rights and values and increase access to and ownership of water for cultural and economic purposes	<b>2.1</b> Strengthen the role of First Nations/Aboriginal People in water planning and management <b>2.2</b> Develop a state-wide Aboriginal water strategy <b>2.3</b> Provide Aboriginal ownership of and access to water for cultural and economic purposes <b>2.4</b> Work with First Nations/Aboriginal People to improve shared water knowledge <b>2.5</b> Work with First Nations/Aboriginal People to maintain and preserve water-related cultural sites and landscapes					
	<b>Priority 3</b> Improve river, floodplain and aquifer ecosystem health, and system connectivity	<b>3.1</b> Consider NSW Long Term Water Plans to protect and enhance ecological systems <b>3.2</b> Take landscape scale action to improve river and catchment health <b>3.3</b> Take action to address threats to native fish <b>3.4</b> Invest in long-term and effective monitoring, evaluation, reporting and research <b>3.5</b> Adopt a more intense, state-wide focus on improving water quality <b>3.6</b> An enhanced, state-wide focus on sustainable groundwater management <b>3.7</b> Work with communities to better understand and improve system connectivity					
	<b>Priority 4</b> Increase resilience to changes in water availability (variability and climate change)	<b>4.1</b> New actions to improve and apply our understanding of climate variability and change <b>4.2</b> Review water allocation and water sharing in response to new climate information <b>4.3</b> Improve drought planning, preparation and resilience <b>4.4</b> Better integrate land use planning and water management					
	<b>Priority 5</b> Support economic growth and resilient industries within a capped system	<b>5.1</b> Provide greater certainty to regional businesses that rely on secure access to water <b>5.2</b> Invest in R&D and new technologies to lift water productivity in NSW industries <b>5.3</b> Improve the operation and transparency of water trade in NSW <b>5.4</b> Identify infrastructure and operational options for each region of NSW <b>5.5</b> Investigate causes of underuse and develop options to bring use back to cap					
	<b>Priority 6</b> Support resilient, prosperous and liveable cities and towns	<b>6.1</b> Increase resilience to changes in climate and water availability in Greater Sydney and the Lower Hunter <b>6.2</b> Work collaboratively with local water utilities to reduce risks to town water supplies <b>6.3</b> Deliver a new Town Water Risk Reduction Program <b>6.4</b> Continue to deliver the Safe and Secure Water Program <b>6.5</b> Continue to work with suppliers of drinking water to effectively manage drinking water quality and safety <b>6.6</b> A new state-wide Water Efficiency Framework and Program <b>6.7</b> Proactive support for water utilities to diversify sources of water <b>6.8</b> Investigate and enable managed aquifer recharge <b>6.9</b> Promote and improve Integrated Water Cycle Management <b>6.10</b> Enable private sector involvement in the NSW water sector <b>6.11</b> Foster the circular economy in our cities and towns					
	<b>Priority 7</b> Enable a future focused, capable and innovative water sector	<b>7.1</b> Pilot new technologies to increase our water options <b>7.2</b> Collaborate to harness new research, innovation and technology <b>7.3</b> Invest in water sector workforce and capability					
<b>Guiding principles</b>	Healthy environments sustain social and economic outcomes	Water is a limited (although recyclable) resource	Systems thinking to optimise outcomes	Data-enabled planning and decision-making	Transparency and accountability to engender community trust	Forward thinking to build preparedness and resilience	Giving effect to Aboriginal rights and access to water