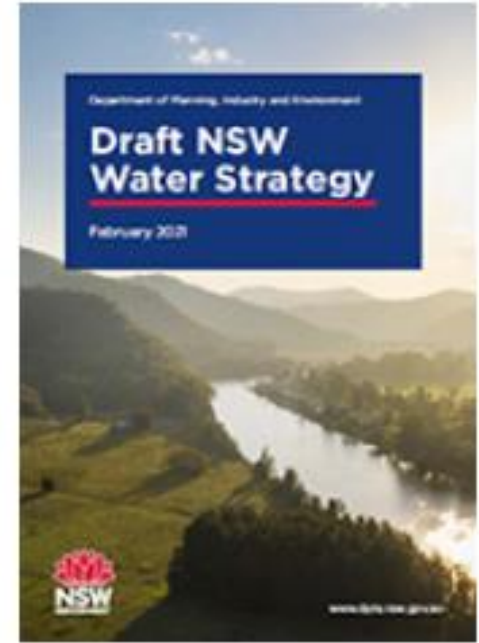
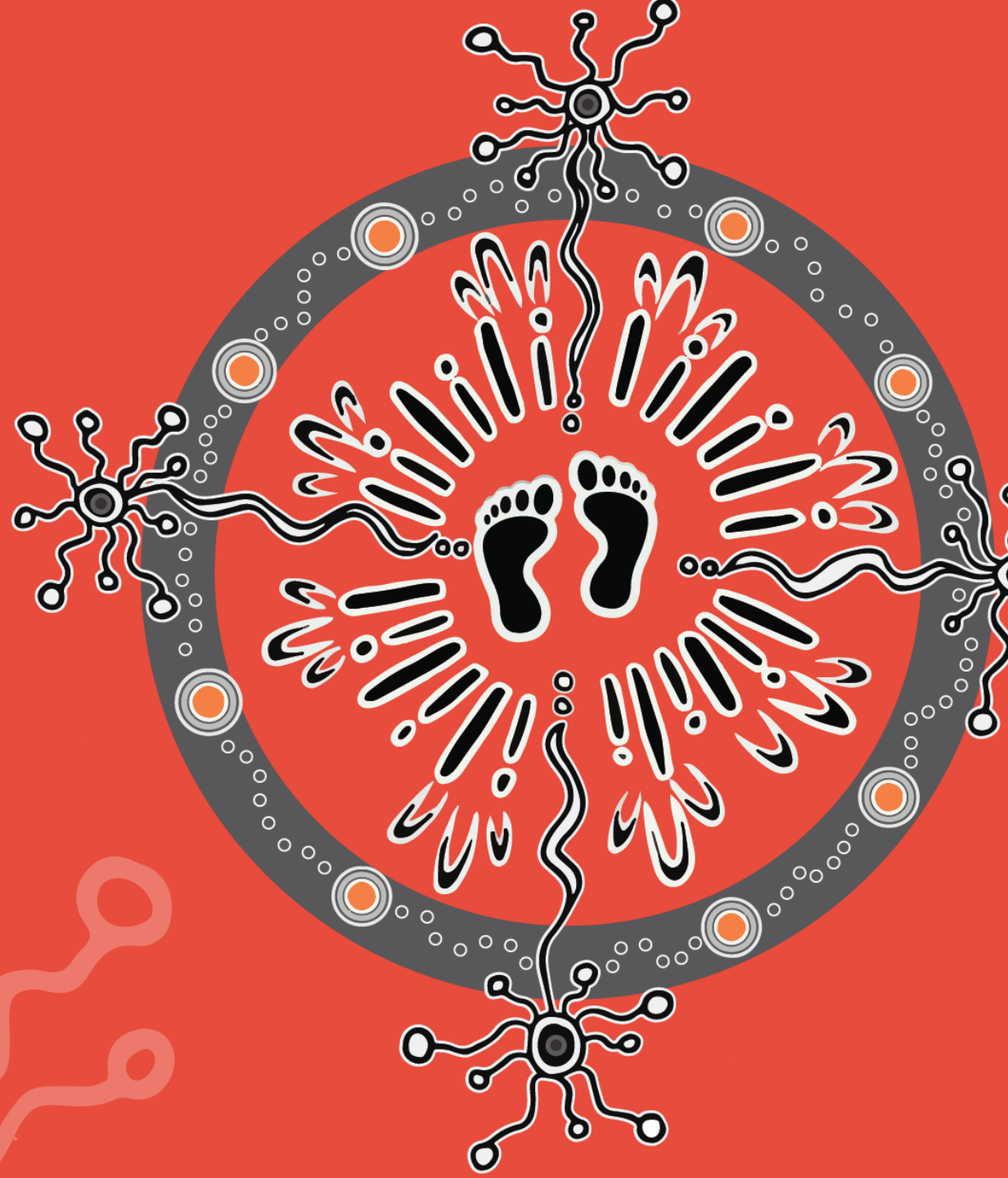




Draft NSW Water Strategy



Acknowledgement of Country



Introductions

Amanda Jones - Chief Strategy Officer
NSW Department Planning Industry and Environment – Water Group

Ria Pryce - Director State Water Strategy
NSW Department Planning Industry and Environment – Water Group

For technical assistance during the webinar, call 1800 733 416



What we will cover today

- What the NSW Water Strategy aims to achieve
- Why we are developing the strategy
- How this state-level strategy fits together with other strategies and reform activities
- Objectives, guiding principles and strategic priorities in the draft strategy
- How to have your say
- Next steps
- Q&A

NSW Water Strategy will:

- Set the vision, objectives and principles for water management and service delivery over 20+ years
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, priorities and actions
- Build on progress made to date and set the direction to improve performance and respond to emerging challenges



Why?

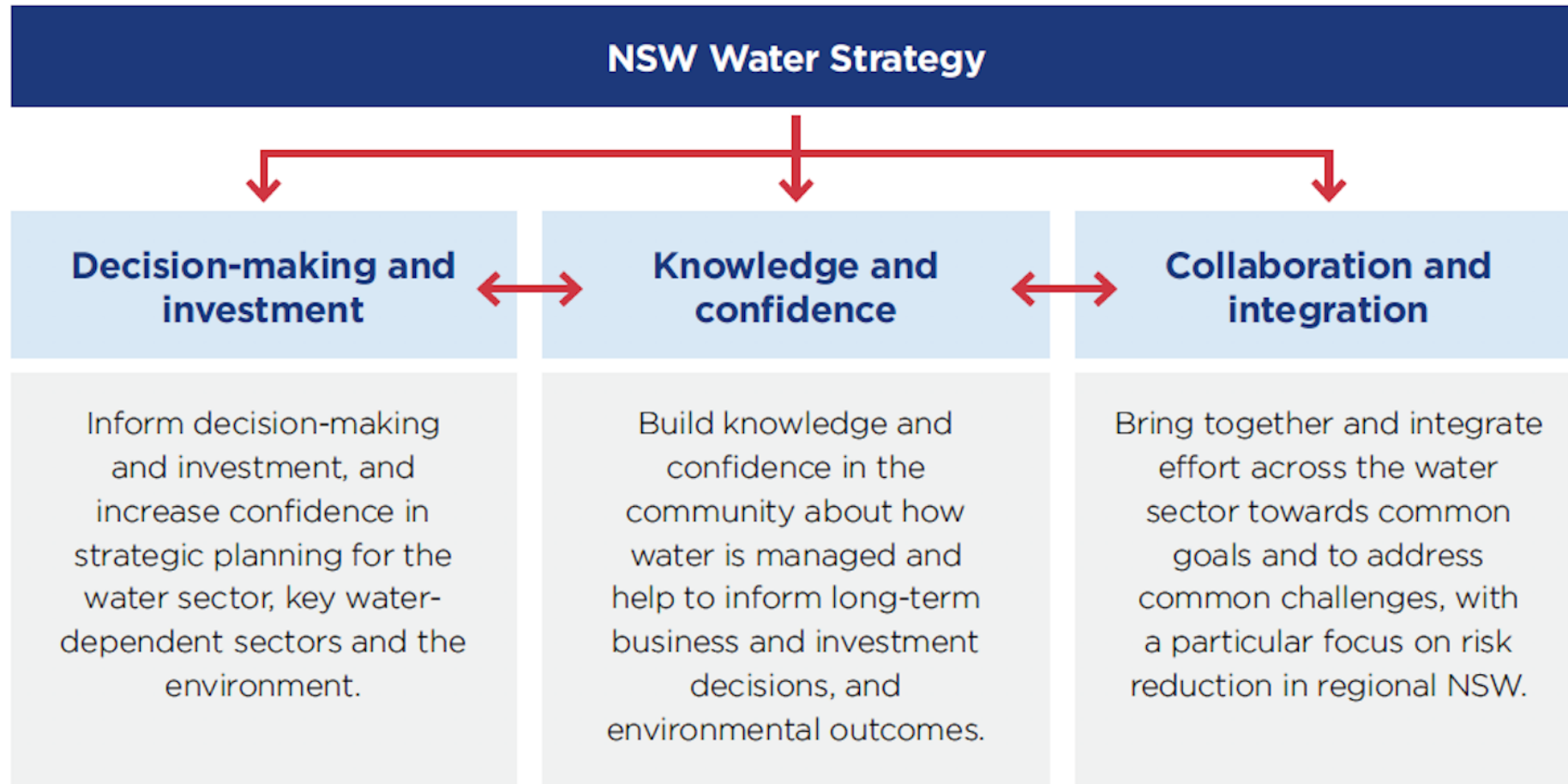
- Ensure sustainable water resources for **current and future generations**
- Respond to a better understanding of **climate variability and change**
- Put water on the same footing as other **catalytic state resources and services**

Why we need the strategy

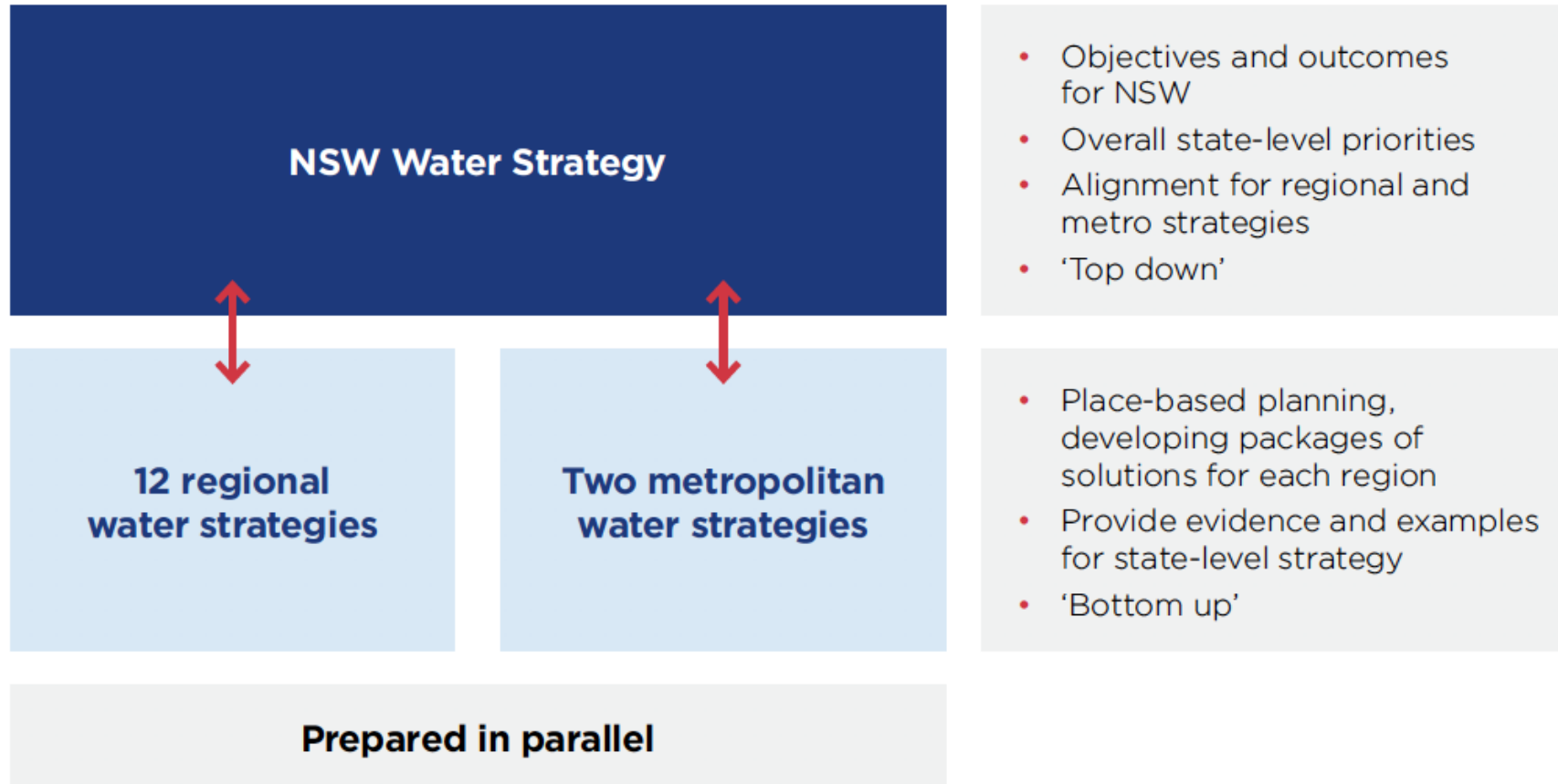
- Water is essential to environment, economies and communities
- Populations are growing and shifting
- The climate is variable and changing
- We need to do things differently

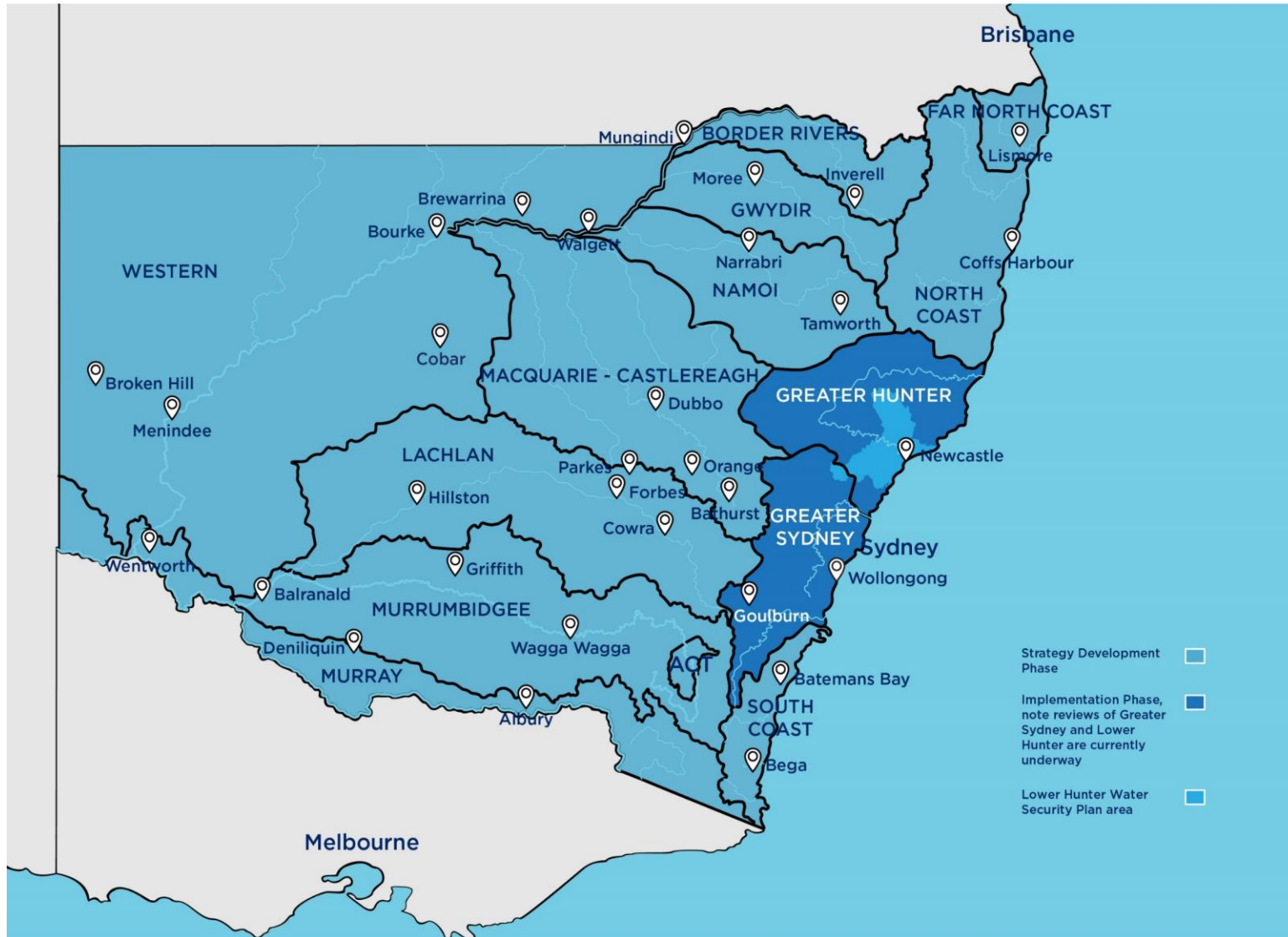


What the NSW Water Strategy will do



How the strategies work together



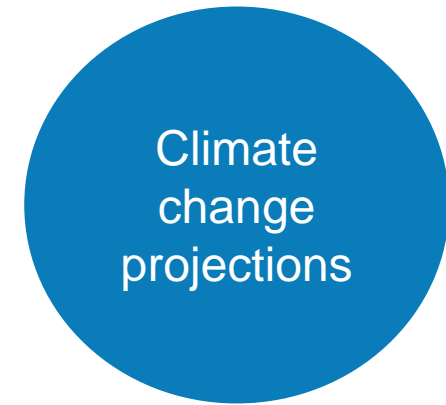
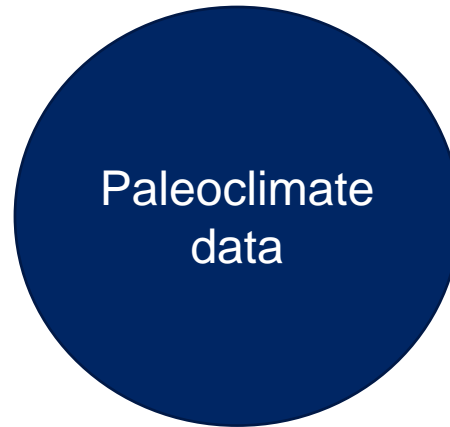


- Greater Hunter being implemented
- Macquarie, Lachlan, Gwydir, Border Rivers, Far North Coast & South Coast exhibited in 2020
- **NSW Water Strategy exhibited Feb 2021**
- North Coast, Namoi on exhibition Feb/Mar 2021
- GSWS on exhibition July 2021
- Western, Murray & Murrumbidgee on exhibition Jul/Aug 2021
- Lower Hunter on exhibition late 2021

Better understanding future climate

The NSW Government has invested in **new climate datasets** and **improved modelling** to gain a more sophisticated understanding of natural climate variability and risks of climate change over the next 40+ years.

In addition to the recorded data, the new method has been informed by:



The method has been peer reviewed by an expert panel convened by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer.

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

How water is shared in NSW


- **Water in NSW is managed and shared according to a framework of rules, rights and entitlements, with limits in place to protect this valuable resource**
- *NSW Water Management Act 2000* defines priorities for water sharing
- Water sharing plans are statutory plans made under the Act that set the priorities and rules
- Murray-Darling Basin Agreement shares the available water in the River Murray system between NSW, Victoria and South Australia
- Water licences set out how much, where and when water can be taken by licence holders
- Different licence types cover different water uses and have different levels of security
- In most parts of NSW, the available water is fully committed and purchasing water entitlements or allocations in the market is the primary way to secure water

NSW Water Strategy: Towards 2050

Sustainable water resources for thriving people, places and ecosystems, both now and for future generations



Objectives and guiding principles

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	
Guiding principles							
	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

Strategic priorities

Seven strategic priorities focused on meeting core objectives based on the NSW *Water Management Act 2000*

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7
Build community confidence and capacity through engagement transparency and accountability	Recognise Aboriginal rights and values and increase access to and ownership of water for cultural and economic purposes	Improve river, floodplain and aquifer ecosystem health and system connectivity	Increase resilience to change in water availability (variability and climate change)	Support economic growth and resilient industries within a capped system	Support resilient, prosperous and liveable cities and towns	Enable a future focused, capable and innovative water sector

Key actions

Priority 1

Build community confidence and capacity through engagement transparency and accountability

- 1.1 Improve engagement, collaboration and understanding
- 1.2 Increase the amount and quality of publicly available information about water in NSW
- 1.3 Enhance modelling capabilities and make more data and models openly available
- 1.4 Reinforce the effectiveness of the Natural Resources Access Regulator
- 1.5 Take the final steps in floodplain harvesting reform
- 1.6 Review the regulation of domestic and stock basic landholder rights
- 1.7 Make sure the majority of non-urban water take in NSW is accurately measured

Key actions

Priority 2

Recognise Aboriginal rights and values and increase access to and ownership of water for cultural and economic purposes

- 2.1** Establish a partnership agreement with the Aboriginal Water Coalition
- 2.2** Strengthen the role of First Nations in water planning and management
- 2.3** Develop a state-wide Aboriginal water strategy
- 2.4** Provide Aboriginal ownership of and access to water for cultural and economic purposes
- 2.5** Work with First Nations to improve shared water knowledge
- 2.6** Work with Aboriginal people to maintain and preserve water-related cultural sites and landscapes

Priority 3

Improve river, floodplain and aquifer ecosystem health and system connectivity

Key actions

- 3.1** Implement NSW Long Term Water Plans to protect and enhance ecological systems
- 3.2** Take landscape scale action to improve river and catchment health
- 3.3** Take action to address threats to native fish
- 3.4** Invest in long-term and effective monitoring, evaluation, reporting and research
- 3.5** Adopt a more intense, state-wide focus on improving water quality
- 3.6** An enhanced, state-wide focus on sustainable groundwater management
- 3.7** Work with communities to better understand and improve system connectivity

Key actions

Priority 4

Increase resilience to change in water availability (variability and climate change)

- 4.1 New actions to improve and apply our understanding of climate variability and change
- 4.2 Review water allocation and water sharing in response to new climate information
- 4.3 Improve drought planning, preparation and resilience
- 4.4 Better integrate land use planning, development approvals and water management

Key actions

Priority 5

Support economic growth and resilient industries within a capped system

5.1 Provide greater certainty to regional businesses that rely on secure access to water

5.2 Invest in R&D and new technologies to lift water productivity in NSW industries

5.3 Improve the operation and transparency of water trade in NSW

5.4 Identify infrastructure and operational options for each region of NSW

Priority 6

Support resilient, prosperous and liveable cities and towns

Key actions

- 6.1** Increase resilience to changes in climate and water availability in Greater Sydney and the Lower Hunter
- 6.2** Work collaboratively with local water utilities to reduce risks to town water supplies
- 6.3** A new Town Water Risk Reduction Program
- 6.4** Continue to deliver the Safe and Secure Water Program
- 6.5** A new state-wide Water Efficiency Framework and Program.
- 6.6** Proactive support for water utilities to diversify sources of water
- 6.7** Investigate and enable managed aquifer recharge
- 6.8** Promote and improve Integrated Water Cycle Management
- 6.9** Enable private sector involvement in the NSW water sector
- 6.10** Foster the circular economy in our cities and towns

Key actions

Priority 7

Enable
a future
focused,
capable and
innovative
water sector

- 7.1 Pilot new technologies to increase our water options
- 7.2 Collaborate to harness new research, innovation and technology
- 7.3 Invest in water sector workforce and capability

We would like to hear from you

We want to hear your views on the direction, outcomes, strategic priorities and action outlined in this draft strategy:

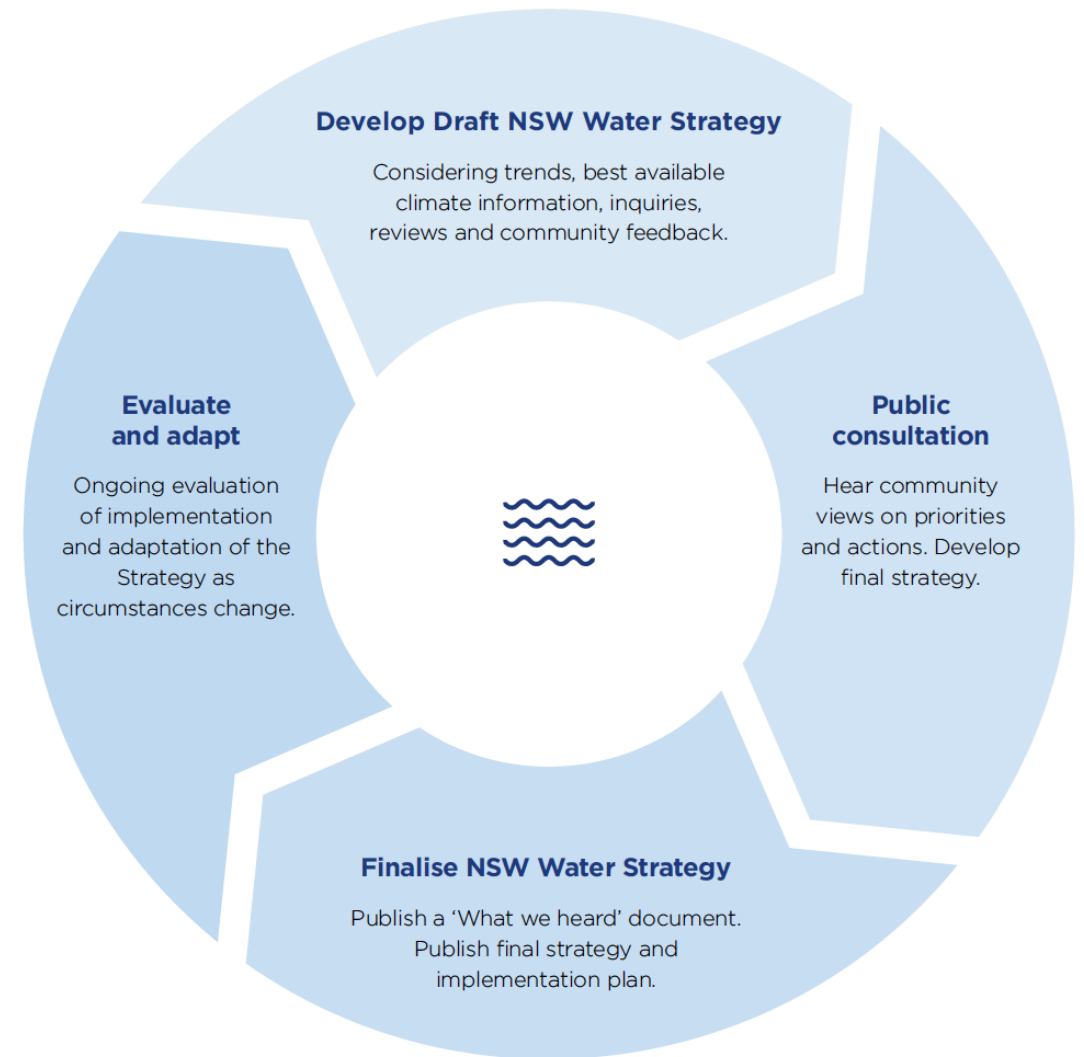
- Are they appropriate?
- What have we missed?
- What do they mean to you in your region or community?
- What is most important to you?



Item No: 165361
Title: Panmatta River - Panmatta
Description: Paved and pedestrian walkways along Panmatta River in Western Sydney.
Region: Sydney
Ministry/Agency: Environment NSW
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Next steps

- Public consultation is open from 15 February to 28 March 2021
- Publish a 'what we heard' document
- Publish the final NSW Water Strategy and implementation plan
- Ongoing evaluation and improvement



Thank you

For more information, visit www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nswwaterstrategy

To contact us, email nsw.waterstrategy@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Questions





Draft NSW Water Strategy

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Department of Planning, Industry and Environment