
**Bureau of Meteorology Submission to the inquiry into the management and use of
Commonwealth environmental water**

The Bureau of Meteorology welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the management and use of Commonwealth environmental water.

Bureau water information role

- Under the Commonwealth Water Act 2007 the Bureau has responsibility for gathering and managing Australia's water data, and for compiling and delivering comprehensive water information to the nation. The Bureau's role is to collate information and assess and report on the availability, condition and use of water resources in Australia. This information informs public policy, programs and practices for better management of the nation's water resources. The Bureau also makes available to the public standardised data with national coverage that underpins a range of water resources analyses and assessments. The ongoing nature of the Bureau's water information functions will allow it to support future water information needs in critical policy and management areas, such as environmental watering.

Terms of Reference 1 and 3: Maximising the use of environmental water, and monitoring and evaluating outcomes of such use.

- The Bureau's national water information role promotes efficiency and transparency through national data collation and standardisation, central analysis and delivery of value-added products and services, and provision of open access to water information products and the underlying data.
- Our products and services related to the use of environmental water include assessments of past water use and standardised water accounts, near-real-time collation and publication of water flow measurements from multiple agencies, and forecasts of daily and sub-daily flow volumes in rivers out to seven days ahead.
- The opportunity exists to draw these resources together with other data, such as remotely sensed mapping of flood extent, to provide public access to near-real-time tracking of environmental water, giving accurate spatial and temporal information on the use of environmental water, as well as identifying the sources of that water.
- Benefits to the public, water managers and environmental water holders would include improved management of events to produce better outcomes, improved monitoring of environmental water use, increased public understanding and trust in effective use of environmental water, and standardised information to inform regulatory reporting.

Contact Officer:

Dr Robert Argent
General Manager Water

