

Saving. Creating. Sharing.

Victoria's Water Plan is all about saving, creating and sharing our most precious resource. The \$4.9 billion plan will provide water for Victoria's growing population and economy in the face of drought and climate change. By Saving, Creating and Sharing we are safeguarding our water, our future.



Saving

By modernising our leaky old irrigation system, we will provide our farmers with a world-class water delivery service – and save as much water every year as all Victoria's households use in six months.

The Northern Victoria Infrastructure Renewal Project – which will modernise the irrigation system – is a billion dollar investment in saving water where it will get the best results.

But saving water isn't new – it's something we've been doing all over Victoria for years. In our houses and factories and also on our farms, saving water is helping us through the worst drought in our history.

Householders are taking shorter showers and buying water-efficient products for the home and garden. The Government's Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme is paying rebates for water-saving products. Water corporations are supplying water-efficient showerheads free to customers. And Water Saver Garden Centres are showing us how to keep our gardens growing in dry times.

Just as importantly, industry and farmers are doing things differently and investing in more water-efficient production.

But we have to keep up the good work. Saving water must become a lifelong habit for all of us.

Creating

Water that we can be sure will always keep flowing, no matter what happens to our rainfall and streamflows. That's what Victoria's new desalination plant will produce.

Enough new water, in fact, to meet half of Melbourne's household needs. Melbourne, Geelong, Western Port and West Gippsland will receive water from the plant. So millions of Victorians will benefit directly.

A full environmental assessment will protect the local region, and in order to compensate for the power required to run the plant, additional supplies of renewable energy will be purchased from sources like wind farms and solar power.

By investing in new water purifying processes, we are also creating new supplies of recycled water. This recycled water will be used in factories, on parks and sports grounds, around housing estates, and even in our rivers. Which all means we will be able to keep more water in our dams.

Upgrading the Eastern Treatment Plant alone will create a huge increase in recycled water.

Sharing

Expanding Victoria's Water Grid – the system of pipelines and natural waterways that carry water across the state – is a very important part of the Victorian Water Plan.

By allowing us to move water to where it's needed most, we are able to share water among more of our drought-affected towns.

It will also give us the ability to make the most of our investments in water. For example, it means that the water we save with projects like modernising our irrigation system can be shared with irrigators, rivers and wetlands and households.

For more information call **136 186**
or visit **www.ourwater.vic.gov.au**
TTY: 1800 122 969

Our Water Our Future
A Victorian Government initiative

