



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water**



STRATEGIC PLAN **2015–2020**



DEPARTMENT OF WATER

From the acting Director General

This Strategic Plan for the Department of Water will guide our work over the next five years to 2020, a period I believe offers great opportunities for our agency.

Western Australians recognise that water is precious and plays a critical part in the story of our state. Its connection and importance to development, community and the natural environment is something to be respected and celebrated.

We are the Western Australian Government agency responsible for the State's water resources and how they are managed and used.

Our vision *water for now and the future* reflects flourishing, liveable and engaged communities, prosperous businesses and protected water resources and environments, recognising climate and social change, population increase and economic development.

Our work will be shaped by the strategic directions in the plan that are geared towards creating opportunities for all Western Australians while ensuring our water resources are managed sustainably. Through great science and strong partnerships we will help transform industries, cities and towns and protect environments that rely on water.

With the expansion of global populations, a changing climate and demand for food and other resources, our role is pivotal. Without water, demand could not be met. Over the next five years we will build on our successes to support economic growth and enhance community wellbeing.

The foundations for this work are already in place. Our groundwater investigation program, including the Water for Food initiative, is identifying the water resources needed to stimulate and attract industry and investment. There is increasing recognition of the importance of water in the urban landscape and our role supporting water sensitive urban design will reshape and enhance the look and liveability of our towns and cities. We will continue working with others to improve the health of our iconic waterways and estuaries to ensure that they remain a vital asset for future generations. Our work will drive improvements in the delivery of water services and promote efficient water use and reuse. We will work to ensure that Western Australia is recognised as a world leader in water innovation.

Because water impacts every part of our economy and community, achieving our vision and strategic directions will require a collective approach. We partner across government, industry, universities and the community to share knowledge, build capacity and deliver effective solutions. In coming years we will forge new partnerships that will enhance delivery of our business. Sharing our excellent science, robust water management policies and innovative water solutions in Australia and internationally will help to confirm our status as an agile organisation, constantly evolving and ready to meet new water challenges and priorities.

Our success is due to the passion, dedication and commitment of everyone who works at the Department of Water. We will continue to pursue a culture of excellence underpinned by the values contained in this plan.

I am excited about our role in the future of Western Australia. The directions outlined in our five-year Strategic Plan build on our achievements over our first decade and take us boldly into our second.

Mike Rowe
September 2015



Vision

Water for now
and the future

Purpose

Support Western Australia's community,
economy and environment by managing
water sustainably

Strategic directions



Excellent water information, science and communication



We will accomplish this by:

- Measuring, monitoring and studying water resources to continuously improve water planning and management.
- Using data to model our current water resources and predict the impacts of our growing population, changing climate and land use.
- Providing information that meets stakeholder needs.



Contemporary water policy and regulation



We will accomplish this by:

- Ensuring that legislation, policies and plans support effective water management and optimal water use.
- Developing policy that supports the efficient and effective use of water in Western Australia.
- Promoting innovation in the water services sector.



Effective and adaptive management and use of water



We will accomplish this by:

- Incorporating climate change in our decision making.
- Having a tailored approach to managing water factors that is based upon science, knowledge and values.
- Developing policies and strategies that support innovative water efficiency, fit-for-purpose use and recycling.



Liveable communities and healthy water environments



We will accomplish this by:

- Integrating water management in land management and planning.
- Providing advice on water management to support sustainable development for towns and cities.
- Leading, advocating and facilitating good water quality outcomes in priority aquifers, rivers and estuaries.



Strong partnerships to champion better water outcomes and solutions



We will accomplish this by:

- Building partnerships and engagement strategies to develop new and innovative solutions for water management and use to achieve good water outcomes.
- Building water management capacity across industry, local government and the community.



Great customer service through capable people, systems and efficient business processes



We will accomplish this by:

- Adopting contemporary information systems and processes to support efficient service delivery and improve our ability to communicate with stakeholders.
- Supporting diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to make sure we have the right people to deliver on our customer and business needs.

Values



People are our foundation and future

Our business delivery is enhanced by the diversity, knowledge, experience and abilities of our people.

Our vibrant workplace generates engaged and effective people.



Get things done

We are courageous in creating solutions and we deliver on our commitments.



Communicate effectively

We communicate to build relationships, do our jobs and increase understanding.



Work with integrity

We are open, honest, trustworthy and reliable. We make decisions based on evidence and procedural fairness.



Work collaboratively

We build effective alliances and partnerships to build trust and achieve shared outcomes, better alignment and broader government objectives.

Department of Water
168 St Georges Terrace
Perth Western Australia 6000

Telephone: +61 6364 7600
Facsimile: +61 6364 7601
National Relay Service: 13 36 77

www.water.wa.gov.au
© Government of
Western Australia 2015

This publication is available at our website or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print or Braille.