

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Police
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PLANNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE FOR VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is planning for population growth, climate change and water security to create jobs, a healthy environment and stronger communities.

Victoria's water corporations have released their *Urban Water Strategies*, which provide a detailed 50-year forecast of water demands for communities, along with supply options so that those demands can be met.

The *Urban Water Strategies* are based on the Labor Government's new climate guidelines, which set out critical, up-to-date data and advice about how to assess the impact of climate change on water supplies.

Urban Water Strategies show that our water security remains high thanks to past and continued investment in the water grid and the desalination plant.

But according to projections, the demand for water in Melbourne and the surrounding region could almost double over the next 50 years, and annual flows from our major water supply catchments could decrease by more than 40 per cent.

The strategies are detailed in *Water for Victoria*, which outlines a modern vision for our water system that is efficient, innovative, future-focused, affordable and supports jobs.

They also set out how water corporations will work with councils to ensure the health of our parks and gardens, particularly during drier times.

The strategies set out actions that water corporations will implement for:

- adaptation to climate change that will ensure safe, secure and affordable water services
- encouraging the sustainable use of water resources – including rainwater, stormwater, recycled water and rainfall independent supplies
- ensuring that the water needs of environmental assets are considered
- maximising shared benefits for all water users.

Water Corporations have also taken steps engage with the community and increase the participation of Traditional Owners in water management.

The Labor Government is investing \$537 million to deliver *Water for Victoria*, including a record \$222 million to improve the health of our waterways and catchments.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

"As we deal with issues around climate change and population growth, we need to make sure our water management is prepared to meet these challenges – both now and for future generations."

"I want our water corporations and the whole sector to help Victoria adapt to climate change, to ensure we can continue to support jobs, liveable communities and a healthy environment."