

# Barossa Water Security Strategy

Update – November 2022



## New strategy to support water security for Barossa published

In a first for South Australia, a 30 year water security strategy has been developed for Barossa.

The strategy has been prepared to support the region's current demand and incremental future growth and help industries and communities adapt to a changing climate.

The strategy was developed throughout 2021 in collaboration with Barossa Valley and Eden Valley communities and sets out a shared vision and actions to achieve a water-secure future. The strategy was finalised after incorporating valuable feedback received through a consultation process earlier this year.

"There is strong support for the strategy from the Barossa community. Although recent wet conditions have alleviated some of the shortened pressures, we shouldn't forget that water scarcity is a critical issue for our area. It should serve to highlight the importance of long-term planning to secure sufficient water to maintain the region's success", said James March, CEO of Barossa Australia.

"Climate change projections are concerning. Without action to address water security the reliability for irrigation and for the environment will most likely decline".

"The strategy gives us a robust plan to ensure we are doing all we can to prepare for an uncertain future and secure the water needed to support the visibility of our community, industries, cultural values and our ecosystems".

"We encourage you to read the strategy as it sets out important information about the likely impacts of climate change on water availability and what actions will be needed to ensure water security for our region" he concluded.

The strategy brings together the different understandings of water use and availability, including alternative recycled water supply, and complements other water-related projects underway. Actions in the strategy will help to guide future infrastructure investment and policy development and ensure they align to the future vision.

The process to develop the strategy involved considering future uncertainties facing the region, including climate change, their impact on water supply and demand, and explored options and actions that could address future challenges. Strategic actions have been stress-tested against climate projections to ensure the most robust actions are included in the strategy.

The process has been led by the Department for Environment and Water in partnership with PIRSA, SA Water, the Environment Protection Authority, Northern & Yorke Landscape Board, Barossa Australia, Barossa Infrastructure Limited (BIL), The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council, RDA Barossa Gawler Light and Adelaide Plains.

The strategy was launched at the Barossa Sustainability & Innovation Forum on Wednesday 9 November 2022. It will now be implemented in collaboration with partner organisations and local businesses and the community.

To find out more visit the Department for Environment and Water website here: [Department for Environment and Water - Barossa Water Security Strategy](#) or contact Peta Brettig, Principal Policy Officer, Water Security Team on [peta.brettig@sa.gov.au](mailto:peta.brettig@sa.gov.au).