

McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy - Update # 1

March 2023



Workshop 1

The first workshop for the development of a McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy was held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 at the McLaren Vale Visitor Information Centre. Workshop participants started to plan for the long-term future and water security of the region, setting a strong foundation for the remainder of the strategy development.

At the workshop we:

- collectively identified and prioritised elements of a future vision for the McLaren Vale region
- identified goals for the priority vision elements
- started to identify actions to achieve the vision (backcasting)
- highlighted the uncertainties that are likely to impact on these plans.

The top four vision topics we identified were:

- integrated water management
- retention of rural character
- circular economy
- protection and enhancement of native vegetation.

Copies of the vision, goals for the priority vision elements and the four backcasts are available [here](#).

Vision

We have been working on a succinct summary based on the issues of importance identified through workshop activities (see photo below). The vision will be further refined ahead of the next workshop.

The vision for the McLaren Vale Region is for a vibrant place to live, work and visit, where:

- *Climate resilient water resources, managed in an integrated way, deliver affordable zero carbon water supply.*
- *Coastal ecosystems and land biodiversity are flourishing, supported by native vegetation, healthy waterways and no wastewater outflow to the sea.*
- *Rural character has been preserved and enhanced by green streets, parks and open spaces, which keep all suburbs cool and liveable.*
- *All businesses are part of a clean, green, diverse and circular economy that is renowned for its wine, food and tourism.*
- *First Nations voice and wisdom is respected and helps to effectively manage land, water and coast.*
- *Collaboration and a culture of shared responsibility persists, allowing technology and opportunities for innovation to be embraced.*



Next steps

The project team is now collating all information provided at the first workshop and working on consolidating the outputs. Future scenarios are being prepared based on areas of uncertainty and the key drivers of change identified at Workshop 1. We will test and refine the plans we made at Workshop 1 through these scenarios at Workshop 2, which will be held in June 2023 (date to be confirmed).

After the second workshop, further analyses will be undertaken to 'stress test' options identified through the workshops under current and future climate scenarios. This will help us to prioritise actions, and the results will then be presented in a third workshop to further refine the strategy. After this, a draft 2070 McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy will be shared for public consultation and feedback before being finalised.

Further updates will be provided throughout the strategy development process.

If you'd like to stay informed as the strategy develops, subscribe for our [regular stakeholder newsletter](#).

To find out more about the McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy, please contact Peta Brettig, Principal Policy Officer, Water Security Team on peta.brettig@sa.gov.au.