

# **WATER ACCOUNT**

**AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 15 NOV 2004

## **C O R R I G E N D U M**

After the Water Account, Australia 2000-01 was released in May 2004 some errors were detected in the published data. This publication corrects these errors which were in:

- Chapter 1 Introduction and main findings
- Chapter 9 Water use—Households
- Chapter 10 Water stocks.

In chapter 1, page 8, in table 1.3 the Industry Gross Value Added (IGVA) for the Agriculture industry has been corrected from \$9,618m to \$20,072m. This change does not affect the estimate of the gross value of irrigated agricultural production presented in chapter 5.

In chapter 9, page 87, graph 9.4 has been changed from the proportion of the population with rainwater tanks to the proportion of households throughout Australian states and territories with rainwater tanks. The relevant text on page 87 has been corrected accordingly. In addition, within table 9.8, page 89, the row showing the proportion of the population with rainwater tanks has been removed and the row showing the proportion of households has been corrected.

In chapter 10, page 98, the mean annual run-off and developed yield of surface water stocks in table 10.9 have been ammended for most states and territories. In addition, the Australian developed yield has been ammended. The relevant text relating to table 10.9 on page 93 has also been corrected. No other pages in the publication have been ammended. We apologise for any inconvenience that the publication of these errors may have caused.

Susan Linacre

Acting Australian Statistician

## **I N Q U I R I E S**

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

### 1.3 WATER CONSUMPTION, EMPLOYMENT AND IGVA, by selected industries —2000–01

	<i>Water consumption</i>	<i>Employment</i>	<i>IGVA</i>
	ML	no.	\$m
Agriculture(a)	16 660 381	369 379	20 072
Forestry and fishing(b)	26 924	62 288	1 546
Mining	400 622	78 891	33 975
Manufacturing	866 061	1 101 669	73 354
Electricity and gas supply	1 687 778	48 159	11 129
Water supply(c)	1 793 953	19 067	4 222
Other	832 100	7 386 258	405 776

(a) Water consumption for irrigated agriculture only. Industry Gross Value Added (IGVA) and employment represent all irrigated and non-irrigated agriculture.

(b) Includes Services to agriculture; hunting and trapping.

(c) Includes sewerage and drainage services.

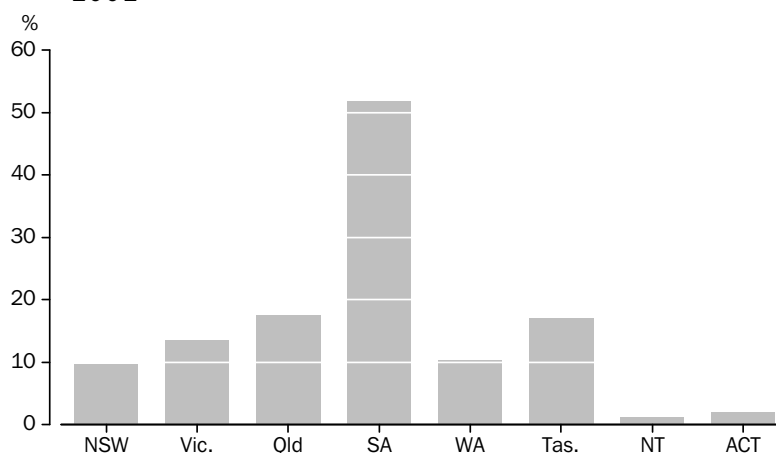
Source: ABS 2001a, ABS 2002a, ABS 2002d.

*Rainwater tanks*  
*continued*

New South Wales (236,000). The lowest number of rainwater tanks was recorded in the Australian Capital Territory (2,500) and the Northern Territory (700).

Graph 9.4 shows the proportion of households with rainwater tanks. South Australia had the highest proportion of rainwater tanks with 51.8% of households reporting they had a rainwater tank. This was followed by Queensland (17.5%) and Tasmania (17.2%). The state or territory with the lowest proportion of households with rainwater tanks was the Northern Territory, with 1.3% of households reporting that they had a rainwater tank.

**9.4** PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH RAINWATER TANKS—March 2001



The actual volume of water from rainwater tanks used by households in Australia is poorly understood. In the water account, water use from rainwater tanks is included in the self-extracted component of the estimates.

*Reuse water*

Use of reuse water by households is virtually non-existent in Australia. Current health legislation and the absence of infrastructure, are among the reasons for the absence of mains supply of reuse water to households. However, there are several examples of houses that have on-site grey water recycling capabilities in Australia. This policy is widely supported by environment agencies and government departments. (For example see *Queensland Water Recycling Strategy Paper*, *Water Development Plan for Tasmania and the South Australian State Water Plan 2000*). On-site recycling and reuse is out of scope for this edition of the water account, these volumes are not reported in this publication.

**9.7** WATER USE, Households by location of use—2000–01 .....

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<i>Location</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bathroom	26	26	19	15	17	16	20
Toilet	23	19	12	13	11	14	15
Laundry	16	15	10	13	14	10	13
Kitchen	10	5	9	10	8	5	8
Outdoor	25	35	50	50	50	55	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Data not available for Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Sums may not necessarily equal due to rounding.

Source: ActewAGL 2003; Day, P. 2003, personal communication; Sydney Water 2001; Water Corporation 2001; WaterSmart 2001; Waterwise (n.d.).

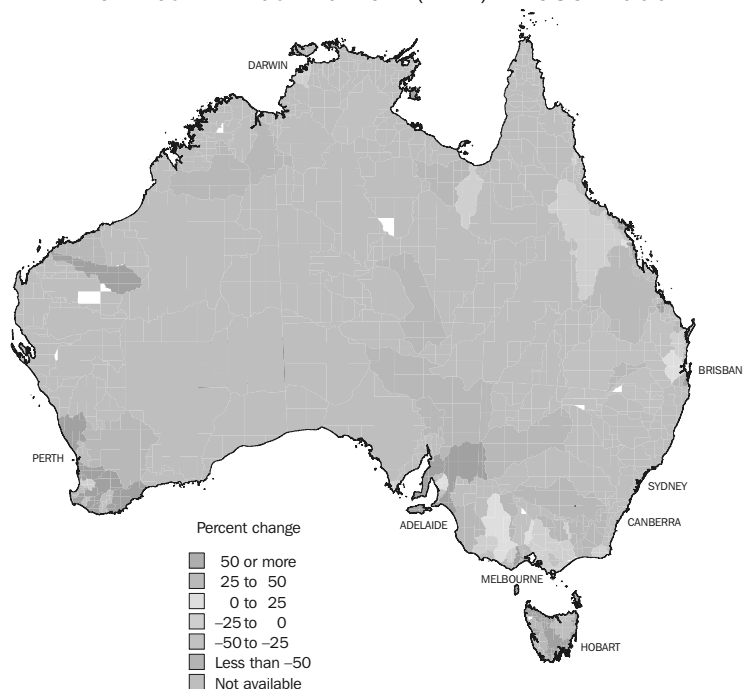
**9.8** RAINWATER TANKS—MARCH 2001 .....

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Number ('000)	236.0	244.7	244.0	318.6	76.3	32.8	0.7	2.5	1155.7
Proportion of households with rainwater tanks (%)	9.7	13.5	17.5	51.8	10.4	17.2	1.3	2.0	15.7

Source: ABS 2001d

Surface water *continued*

**10.4** SURFACE WATER, Change in developed yield as a percentage of Mean Annual Run-off (MAR)—1985–2000



Source: Adapted from AWRC 1987a; AWRC 1987b; NLWRA 2001.

Developed yield (also referred to as Economic Allocated volumes) is the average annual volume of water that can be diverted for use with the existing infrastructure (NLWRA 2001). The developed yield demonstrates the extent to which surface water assets are, or can be, used. In 2000 developed yield was approximately 20,870 GL representing 5% of Australia's MAR. Map 10.2 and table 10.9 show developed yield, while map 10.3 shows the developed yield as a percentage of MAR in 2000. Map 10.4 shows the change in developed yield as a percentage of MAR between 1985 and 2000.

Some of the MAR is used in the period it falls (e.g. the calendar or financial year) but part of this resource is stored in dams to be used in the future. The amount of water held in dams is also part of the water stock and this is examined later in the chapter. The amount of water stored in dams is an important consideration for water managers. For example, when levels of water fall below average levels then decisions about water allocation are often made. This was the case recently during the severe drought conditions experienced in much of Australia after the reference period of this water account. Many agricultural producers had their water allocations reduced, while water restrictions were placed on households in many urban areas (see *Year Book Australia, 2004* (cat. no. 1301.0)) (ABS 2004b).

Groundwater stocks

The volume of groundwater that exists in Australia is not known with certainty. The volume changes as water percolates through the ground to aquifers (underground water resources) and through water being extracted (e.g. from bores). Instead of an absolute measure of groundwater stock, a proxy is used. This is the amount of water that can be sustainably extracted, referred to as sustainable yield. Sustainable yield is defined by the NLWRA (2001) as:

**10.9** SURFACE WATER STOCKS—2000

	NSW	Vic.	QLD	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Mean annual run-off (ML/yr)	41 926 000	20 188 300	157 208 576	1 936 800	43 133 800	45 582 113	75 428 200	520 037	385 923 826
Developed yield (ML)	6 010 171	6 326 240	3 244 024	750 808	856 754	3 542 690	54 383	85 200	20 870 270

Source: Adapted from AWRC 1987a, AWRC 1987b, NLWRA 2001.

**10.10** SUSTAINABLE YIELD GROUNDWATER, by level of salinity—2000

Level of salinity	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	Aust.
<b>Volume (ML)</b>								
Less than 1500 mg/L								
Less than 500 mg/L	698 215	193 560	1 373 040	55 850	1 898 876	1 585 388	4 412 001	10 216 930
500–1000 mg/L	3 927 969	827 000	994 530	228 640	1 061 380	766 705	287 238	8 093 462
1000–1500 mg/L	34 000	386 357	119 460	679 515	995 171	449	454 972	2 669 924
Total	4 660 184	1 406 917	2 487 030	964 005	3 955 427	2 352 542	5 154 211	20 980 317
1500 mg/L and over								
1500–3000 mg/L	812 450	243 735	113 540	252 645	1 467 640	178 230	139 306	3 207 547
3000–5000 mg/L	1 550	707 133	29 750	600	588 568	—	182 917	1 510 518
5000–14000 mg/L	440 400	200 750	62 730	761 900	841 195	—	—	2 306 975
More than 14000 mg/L	—	797 000	—	—	370 668	—	—	1 167 668
Total	1 254 400	1 948 618	206 020	1 015 145	3 268 071	178 230	322 223	8 192 707
<b>Total sustainable yield</b>	<b>5 914 584</b>	<b>3 355 535</b>	<b>2 693 050</b>	<b>1 979 150</b>	<b>7 223 498</b>	<b>2 530 772</b>	<b>5 476 434</b>	<b>29 173 024</b>
<b>Proportion (%)</b>								
Less than 1500 mg/L	79	42	92	49	55	93	94	72
1500 mg/L and over	21	58	8	51	45	7	6	28

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Note: Sums may not necessarily equal totals due to rounding.



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