

The Environment Institute

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AUSTRALIA



A way forward: Step by step

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Current building blocks

- **Hydrological integrity**
 - Bring in small farm dams, forestry, overland flow capture, etc
- **Equitable risk sharing with Environment**
 - Environment to be a major entitlement holder
- **Subsidiarity for regional planning but not for environmental water**
 - Uniform definition of SDL across the Basin built around a 114 year average less 3% allowance for adverse climate change
 - But Environmental water held centrally



Suggested trade-offs in Guide

- 1. Conveyance to and through Mouth 9 yrs in 10**
- 2. Prepared to lose 25% of red gum forests**
- 3. Most benefits from 3,000 GL to 4,000 GL local and within region where reduction occurs**
- 4. Cuts if commonwealth fails to buy enough water or create enough savings**



A way forward – A different SDL

1. The Act allows the SDLs to be defined in any way the Authority thinks appropriate
2. Rather than a volumetric approach, they could identify the portfolio of entitlements to be acquired for the environment and placed in regional environment trusts
 - Still need to define conveyance reserve
 - Define maximum limit on annual allocations as amount when all existing entitlements receive 100% allocation
 - Grandfather in 100% of interception processes
 - Identify a proportion of each entitlement type to be acquired for the environment
3. Move forward step by step, monitoring, adjusting and learning with communities
4. Commitment to keep on sourcing water until health is restored.

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