



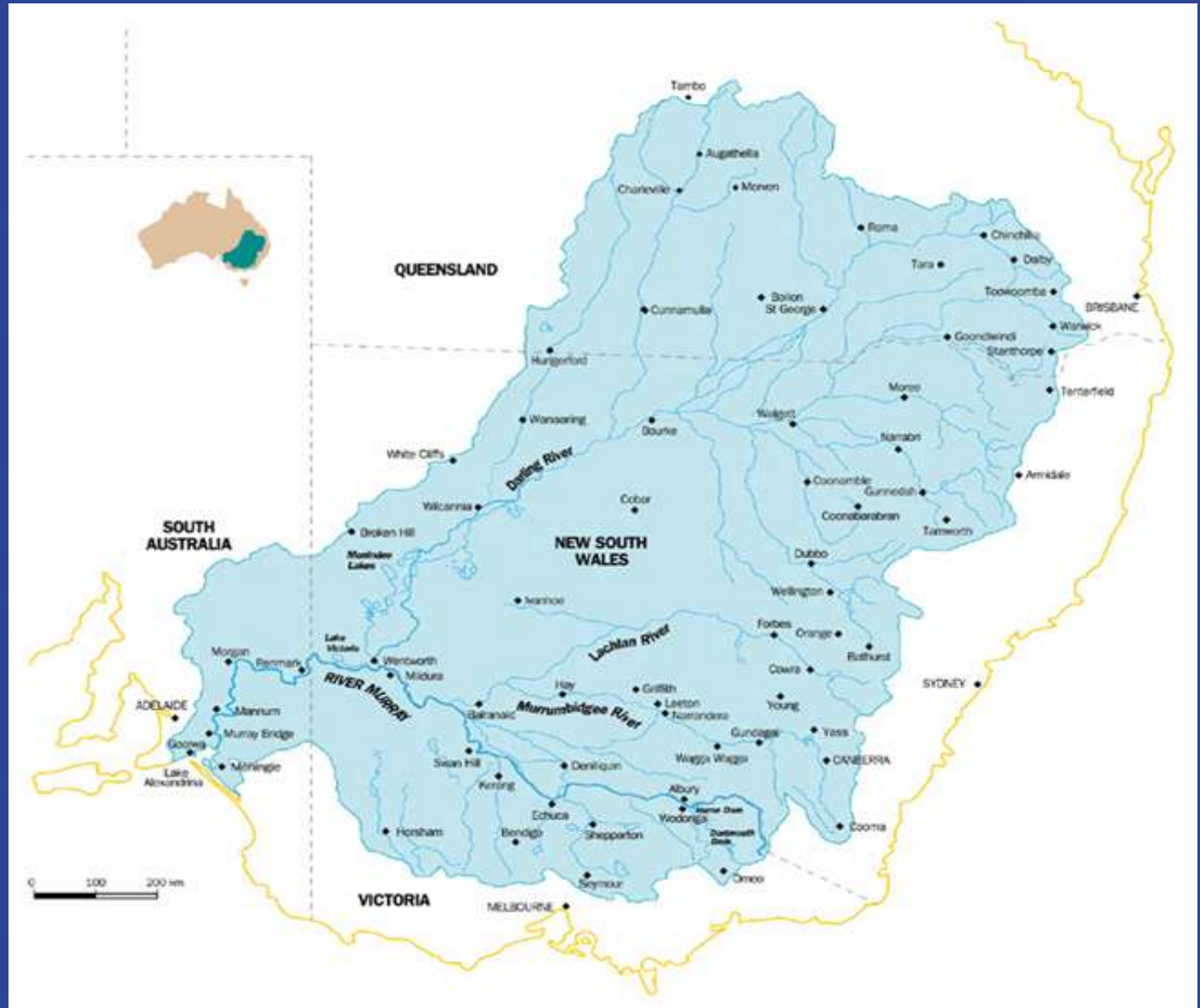
Government
of South Australia

River Murray and Water Security

15 October 2008

Hon Karlene Maywald MP
Minister for the River Murray
Minister for Water Security

The Murray-Darling Basin



River Murray drought

- Three distinct drought periods:
 - Pre Federation – average inflow 4 900 GL/year
 - WWII – average inflow 5 600 GL/year
 - Current – average inflow 3 800 GL/year
- Long-term average inflow is 8 900 GL/year
- 2006/07 inflow 1,040 GL – lowest on record
- 2007/08 inflow 2,230 GL
- Driest two years on record – previous minimum 6,020 GL



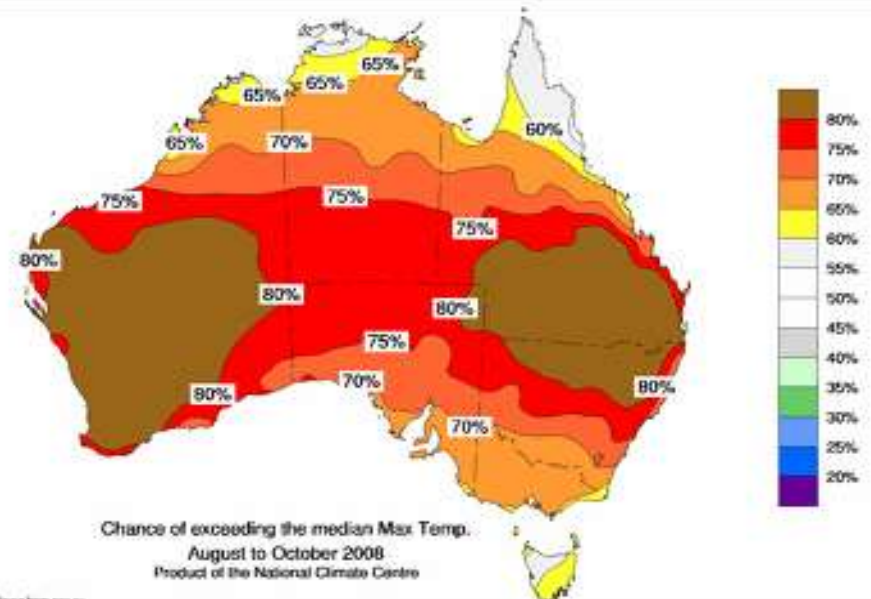
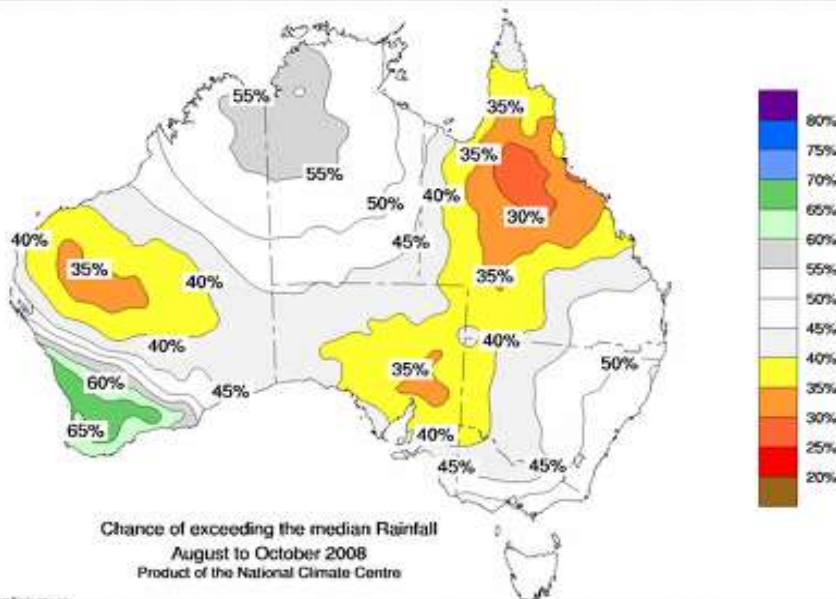
Current situation

- Poor start to 2008-09 – new record low inflow into the River Murray of 95 GL in June and below average rainfall
- Previous minimum for June was 105 GL in 2006
- Rainfall across most of the upper Murray Catchment improved during July, August and September 2008, total inflows so far is only 1075 GL compared to the long-term average for the same period of 5030 GL
- MDBC storages currently 2,618 GL (28% capacity) compared to long-term average of 7070 GL (76% capacity)



Weather outlook

- BOM predictions for August to October 2008 are:
 - 40-70% chance of exceeding median rainfall; and
 - 70-80% chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures



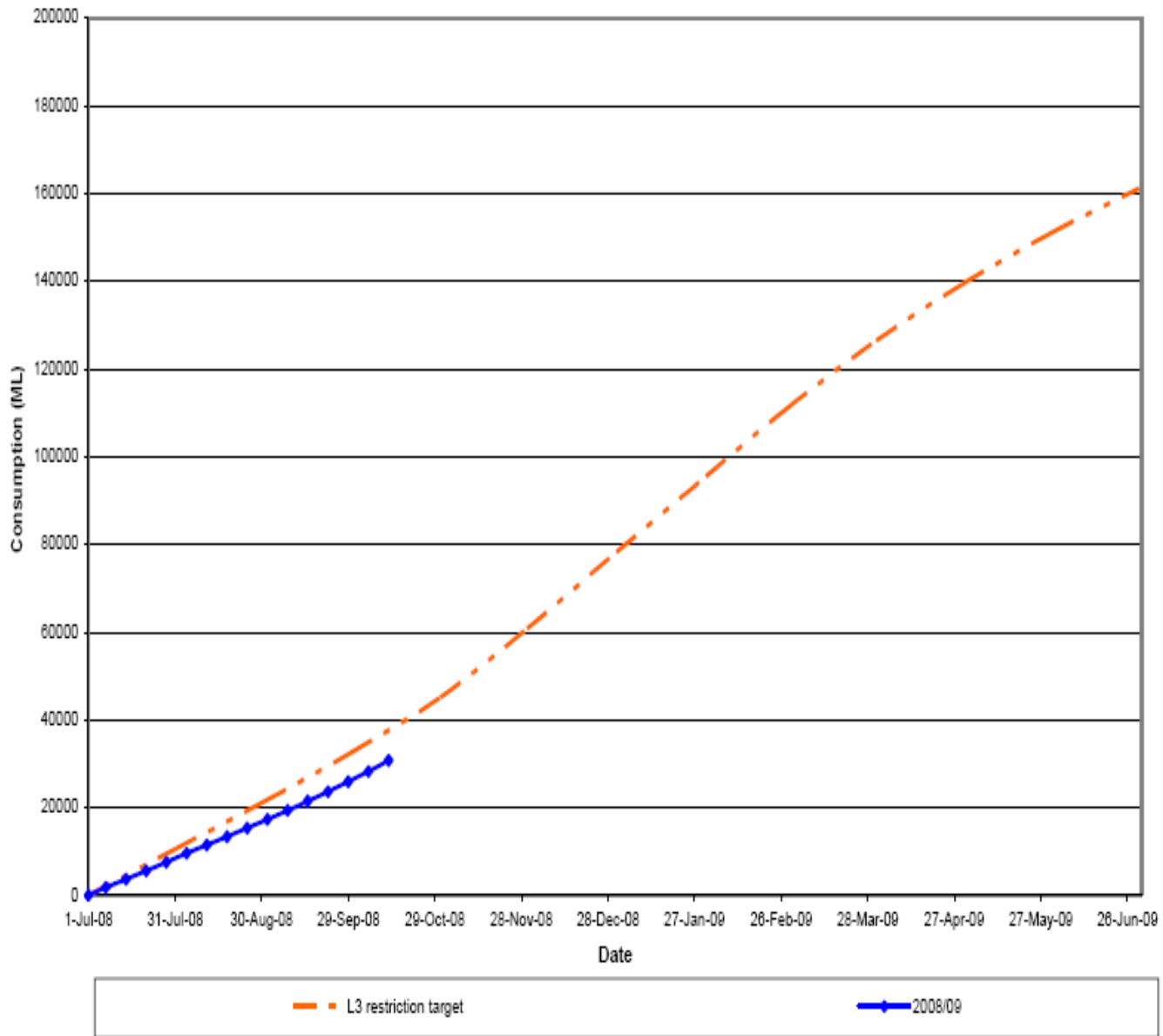
Water security for SA

- 95% of all South Australians rely on the River Murray (domestic, industrial, commercial, agricultural)
- South Australia only extracts 7% of irrigation water from the Murray, but generates 20% of the economic wealth from use of irrigated water
- The current widespread drought is impacting seriously on South Australia's water availability





Cumulative Weekly Consumption Comparison (ML)- ADELAIDE METRO 2008/09 Vs Level 3 Restriction Target Consumption



The future – national funding for reform

- New \$12.9 billion national plan – *Water for the Future* – to fund reforms:
 - \$5.8 billion for irrigation infrastructure renewal
 - \$3 billion to purchase over-allocated water
 - \$1 billion for urban water projects (eg desal)
 - \$450 million for improving water information
 - \$250 million greywater and rainwater initiatives
 - \$250 million water security plans for towns and cities



Longer term water security

- Elements to South Australia's strategy:
 - Murray Futures
 - Water Proofing Adelaide
 - Water Proofing South Australia
 - Four ways to water security
 - Recycling
 - Desalination
 - Managing Use
 - Catchments



SA's *Murray Futures* program

- Three major elements:
 - Securing water supplies
 - Industry and community renewal
 - Securing river health outcomes
- Funding - \$610 million from Commonwealth
- State commitment ~ \$60 million to partner Commonwealth (90:10 basis)
- Potential water savings 100 GL +
- Some components ready for implementation, others subject to extensive community engagement and feasibility work



Murray Futures

1. Lower Lakes pipelines

- Potable water supply to Langhorne Creek, Raukkan Aboriginal community, Narrung and Poltalloch Peninsulas – complete January 2009
- Irrigation supply to Langhorne Creek and Currency Creek areas – complete by 2009/10

2. Lower Lakes adaptive management

- Considering environmental regulators to improve operational flexibility of the river and wetlands
- Subject to community consultation, feasibility and environmental assessment



Murray Futures

3. Industry transition and renewal

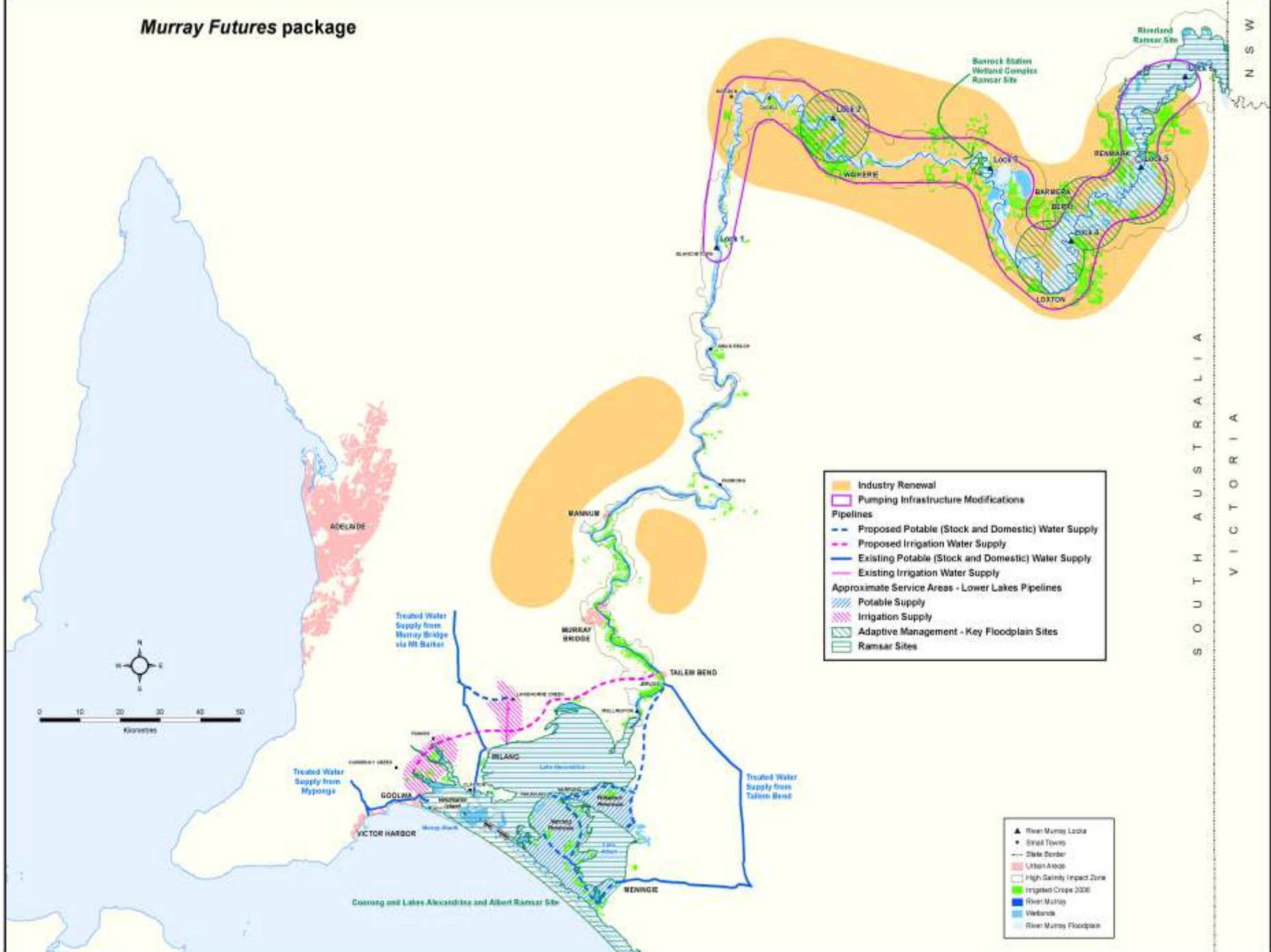
- Reinvigorate irrigation sector and prepare communities for climate change and reduced water
- Options for consultation – retirement of irrigated land, relocation, new technology, changed crops

4. Pump relocation and floodplain management

- Better access and water quality for irrigators
- Infrastructure and adaptive management to improve health of river floodplain and wetlands



Murray Futures package



Four ways to water security

Recycling

'almost half our wastewater re-used'

- Adelaide is a national leader – 30% reused
- New projects will increase this to 45%
 - Projects include:
 - \$75 million Glenelg to Parklands pipeline
 - \$6.6 million expansion of Virginia pipeline
 - Water Proofing the North and South
 - Regional wastewater reuse projects – Port Augusta, Whyalla, Victor Harbor, Berri-Barmera, Loxton-Waikerie



Four ways to water security

Desalination

'drinkable water from the sea'

- Climate independent solution
- 50GL initially – expandable to 100GL
- Port Stanvac preferred site
- \$3m baseline environmental study under way in Gulf St Vincent
- \$9.5m small-scale pilot plant to assess filtration and pre-treatment
- Project to achieve carbon neutrality



Four ways to water security

Managing Use

'everyone contributes through wise water use'

- Permanent water conservation measures in 2003
- New incentives to encourage wise water use
 - Low flow showerheads
 - Garden smart products
 - Washing machine rebates
 - Dual-flush toilet rebates
 - Rainwater Tanks
- Industry water efficiency plans
- Mandatory rainwater tanks for new homes
- Water restrictions, when required, based on constant monitoring of our water supplies



Four ways to Water Security

Managing Use:

Stormwater

- State Government Stormwater Agreement with the Local Government Assoc. in March 06
- New Stormwater Management Authority March 07
- State Government funding commitment \$4 million p.a.
 - Complete – Mawson Lakes
 - Current & Proposed
- Lochiel Park, Playford North, Waterproofing the South, Barker Inlet, Adelaide Airport, Aquifer Storage Transfer & Recovery, Cheltenham Racecourse Site
- SA Water contributing \$2m for feasibility studies on stormwater harvesting



SA's four ways to water security

Catchments

'Improved catchment health and efficiency'

- Investigating doubling water storage capacity in the Adelaide Hills.
- Prescription of Eastern & Western Mt Lofty Ranges
- Independent authority to manage future of Murray
- \$20m/year from Save the River Murray Levy for projects to improve health of river

