



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

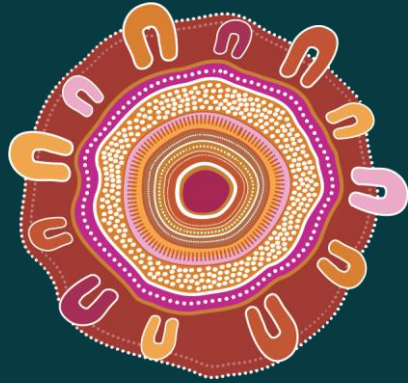
450 Restoring Our Rivers Voluntary Water Purchase Program

Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

Christine MacRae | Phil Coates

22 October 2024





We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



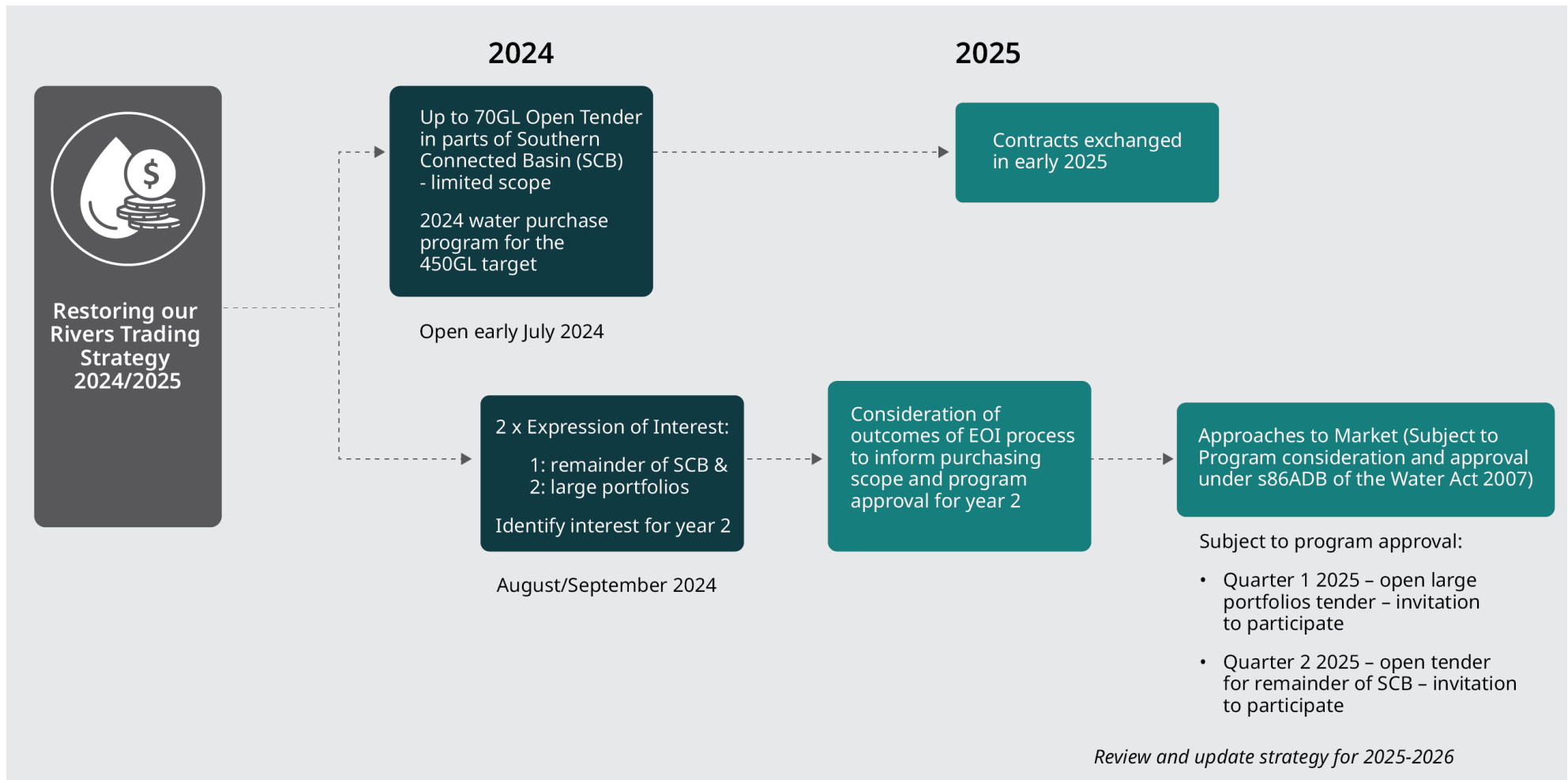
Probity Notice

- We are committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and ensuring our water purchase programs are carried out fairly and according to all legal requirements.
- As there are current water purchasing activities under way, we cannot provide any information that would give someone an advantage over another person.
- The information in this webinar is publicly available to help potential respondents understand the Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

Agenda

1. 450 GL Trading Strategy
 2. Expressions of Interest
 3. Responding to an EOI
 4. Indicative timeline
 5. Information sharing and privacy protection
 6. FAQs
 7. Socio-economic impacts
- 

The 450 GL Trading Strategy



“The EOIs allow time for the department to engage with IIOs and for Basin states on the Sustainable Communities Program.”

Expressions of Interest 1 & 2



Expressions of Interest

- Both EOIs are the first stage of multi-stage procurement processes.
- The EOIs will guide the design water purchasing programs for 2025.
- EOIs close on 27 November 2024.
- EOIs are not binding responses.
- Only respondents to the first stage can be invited to participate in future stages.

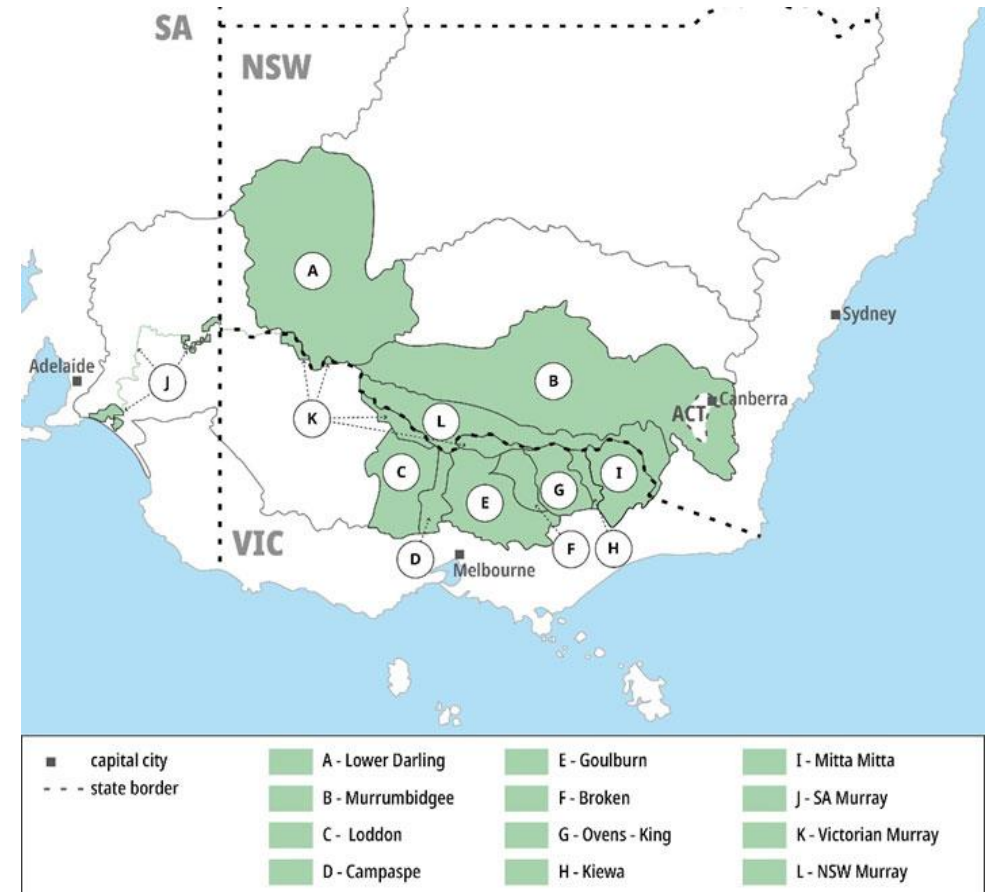
Expression of Interest 1

- Focused on the Southern Connected Basin but **only** water right types that were not in scope for the recent 70 GL Open Tender (* in table):
 - For example, VIC High Reliability Zone 7 was in scope for the 70 GL Open Tender so cannot be submitted via this EOI
 - However, water rights held via Irrigation Corps in NSW or Trusts in SA which were excluded from the 70 GL Open Tender can be submitted via this EOI.
- Unregulated entitlements and section 51 licences are in scope.
- Water rights with mortgages or leases that can be addressed appropriately are also eligible.

State	Catchment	Water Entitlement/reliability/class/category
VIC	Goulburn	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Broken	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Kiewa	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Campaspe	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Mitta Mitta	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Loddon	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences
	Murray	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences*
	Ovens and King	All water shares and reliabilities including section 51 licences*
SA	Murray	All water licences, all classes*
NSW	Murray	All water entitlements and categories*
	Murrumbidgee	All water entitlements and categories*
	Lower Darling	All water entitlements and categories

Expression of Interest 2

- Focused on the whole Southern Connected Basin **without** exclusions based on water right type.
- Portfolios of **around 20 GL** or more of surface water rights.
- Targeting responses from owners of water right portfolios or from persons or entities with legal authority to bind the water right owners to obligations in relation to the water rights.
- An EOI creates a competitive field to drive value for money.
- This approach also offers efficiencies in contracting and administration costs.



Responding to the EOI



Respond via AusTender

- Go to tenders.gov.au and search for
 - ATM_2024_2749 for EOI 1
 - ATM_2024_2750 for EOI 2.
- You will need to sign up or log in to AusTender.
- Each EOI will have a page with:
 - request for the Expression of Interest documents
 - a link to a Lodgement page.

Current ATM View - ATM_2024_2750

Restoring Our Rivers 2024:
Expression of Interest 2:
Large Portfolios of Water
Southern Connected Basin

Contact Details

Water Tenders Office -
ATM_2024_2750

Email Address:
watertenders@dcceew.gov.au

Web Address:
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/water/policy/water-recovery/government-water-purchasing/voluntary-restoring-our-rivers/2024-year1-purchasing-approaches>

ATM Documents

Lodgement Page

ATM ID: ATM_2024_2750

Agency: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Category: 77100000 - Environmental management

Close Date & Time: 27-Nov-2024 12:00 pm (ACT Local Time)

[Show close time for other time zones](#)

Publish Date: 30-Sep-2024

Location: NSW, VIC, SA

ATM Type: Expression of Interest

Multi Agency Access: No

Panel Arrangement: No

Multi-stage: Yes

Multi-stage Criteria: Refer to the Request for Expression of Interest document for details

Description: The Australian Government represented by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) is inviting expressions of interest (EOIs) from owners of large portfolios (around 20 GL or more) of eligible surface water rights in the Southern Connected Basin, who are interested in selling some or all of those water rights to the Australian Government in 2025.

Forms and attachments

EOI 1

- Complete Schedule 1 for each response you wish to submit:
 - One water right = one form
 - Multiple water rights? Multiple forms
 - Multiple price points? Multiple forms.
- Include a copy of a water right document e.g., Water Access License, Entitlement Certificate, Water Share etc.
- The form also asks to details on any leases on the water right.

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Part 2: Water Right Details (NSW)

The response must specify the water right and price being proposed in response to this EOI on a dollar per megalitre basis (\$/ML). If you wish to express an interest in selling several different volumes from the same water right, or volumes from more than one water right, you must submit a separate response for each expression of interest to sell a water right.

Each response must include a copy of a record which evidences the ownership of the water right, the volume available on the water right and details of the water right location and type, which confirm the details described below.

This evidence can be a copy of your current Water Access License Certificate of Title or an equivalent document provided that it contains the relevant details e.g. a water register search record. Please consult with WaterNSW or NSW Land Registry Services or a legal advisor if you are uncertain about the nature of your water right.

Clauses 2.2 and 2.3 of the EOI provide details of the water rights that are eligible for this EOI.

Under this EOI, the department is seeking responses for permanent water rights (in whole or in part), not seasonal water allocations.

a) **Water Right Reference WRL**
Water Right Number or Identifier:

b) **Location of Water Right**
Water Source:

c) **Water Right Type**
Water Entitlement Type:
Extraction/Trading Zone:

d) **Proposed Volume**
Indicative Volume in megalitres:
Note: This amount should be equal to or greater than 10 megalitres (nominal value).

e) **Proposed Price**
Price per megalitre (GST exclusive) (\$/ML):

f) **Is this water right currently under lease?**
☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please indicate the type of lease: If other, please specify:
If yes, please indicate the duration of lease:

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Part 2: Water Right Details (VIC)

The response must specify the water right and price being proposed in response to this EOI on a dollar per megalitre basis (\$/ML). If you wish to express an interest in selling several different volumes from the same water right, or volumes from more than one water right, you must submit a separate response for each expression of interest to sell a water right.

Each response must include a copy of a record which evidences the ownership of the water right, the volume available on the water right and details of the water right location and type, which confirm the details described below.

This evidence can be a copy of the record of your current water share or equivalent document provided that it contains the relevant details. Please consult with the Victorian Water Register or your legal advisor if you are uncertain about the nature of your water right.

Clauses 2.2 and 2.3 of the EOI provide details of the water rights that are eligible for this EOI.

Under this EOI, the department is seeking to purchase permanent water rights (in whole or in part), not seasonal water allocations.

a) **Water Right Reference WRE**
Water Right number or identifier:

b) **Location of Water Right**
Water Source & Type:

c) **Water Right Type**
Reliability Class:
Extraction/Trading Zone:

d) **Proposed volume**
Proposed volume in megalitres:
Note: This amount should be equal to or greater than 10 megalitres (nominal value).

e) **Proposed Price**
Price per megalitre (GST exclusive) (\$/ML):

f) **Is this water right currently or intended to be leased in the future?**
☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please indicate the type of lease: If other, please specify:
If yes, please indicate the duration of lease:

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Part 2: Water Right Details (SA)

The response must specify the water right and price being proposed in response to this EOI on a dollar per megalitre basis (\$/ML). If you wish to express an interest in selling several different volumes from more than one water right, you must submit a separate response for each expression of interest to sell a water right.

Each response must include a copy of a record which evidences the ownership of the water right, the volume available on the water right and details of the water right location and type, which confirm the details described below.

This evidence can be a copy of your current Water Access License, recent invoice or equivalent document provided that it contains the relevant details. Please consult with the SA Department for Environment and Water or your legal advisor if you are uncertain about the nature of your water right.

Clauses 2.2 and 2.3 of the EOI provide details of the water rights that are eligible for this EOI.

Under this EOI, the department is seeking to purchase permanent water rights (in whole or in part), not seasonal water allocations.

a) **Water Right Reference WRS**
Water Right number or identifier:

b) **Location of Water Right**
Water Source & Type:

c) **Water Right Type**
Reliability Class:
Extraction/Trading Zone:

d) **Proposed volume**
Proposed volume in megalitres:
Note: This amount should be equal to or greater than 10 megalitres (nominal value).

e) **Proposed price**
Price per megalitre (GST exclusive) (\$/ML):

f) **Is this water right currently under lease?**
☐ No ☐ Yes
If yes, please indicate the type of lease: If other, please specify:
If yes, please indicate the duration of lease:

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Forms and attachments

EOI 2

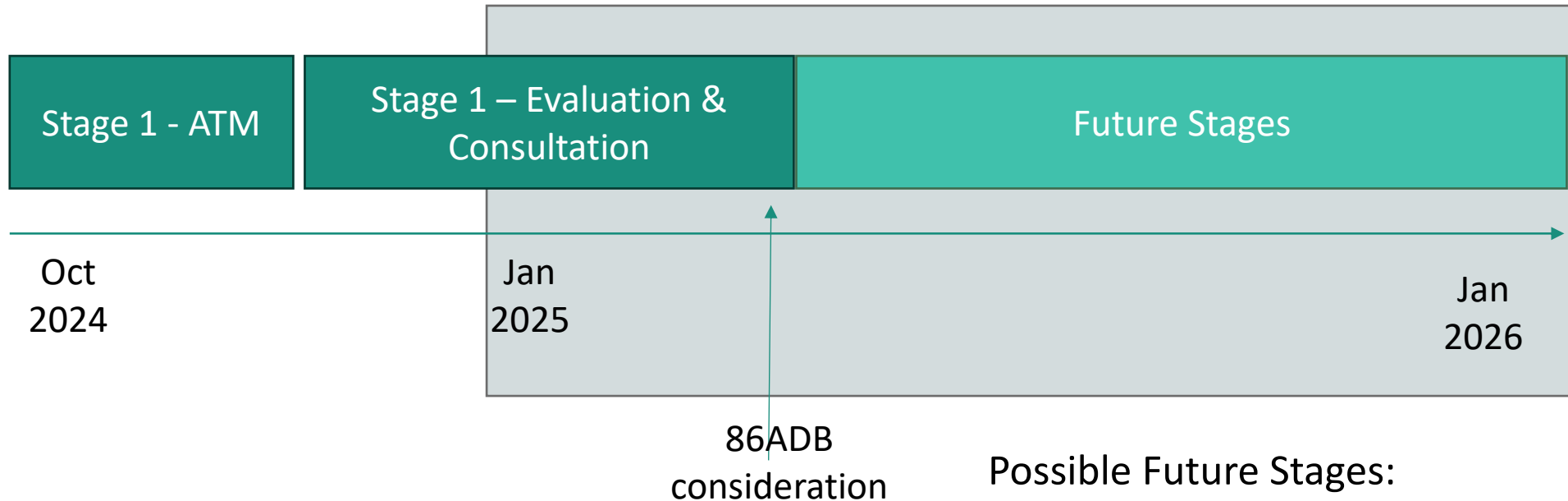
- Complete Schedule 1 for the portfolio.
- Schedule 1 includes Part 2A that needs to be populated with detail of each water right include in the portfolio.
- A copy of each water right document needs to be included e.g., Water Access License, Entitlement Certificate, Water Share etc.

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Indicative timeline



Indicative timelines



Possible Future Stages:

- Inviting some or all respondents to submit firm offers through an open tender process.
- Inviting selected respondents to submit firm offers through a limited tender process.
- Holding multiple approaches in parallel with different scopes/conditions.

Information sharing and privacy protection



Information and privacy

- All responses to the EOI will remain confidential, before, during and after as per the ATM.
- The department has strict controls for, and monitoring of, data access by public servants and their contractors. Inappropriate access has not occurred. If it did, severe penalties apply.
- We are committed to protecting respondents' privacy.
- To design future purchasing stages, we may share **de-identified** information from the EOI with:
 - third parties such as other Commonwealth agencies, state governments, IIOs and other stakeholders to help inform consultations regarding the design of subsequent tender approaches
 - relevant stakeholders to inform the Minister's consideration of the social and economic impact of the purchase program before proceeding to the next stage, in accordance with section 86ADB of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth).

Frequently asked questions & more information



FAQ

Can I change my price between Stage 1 and future stages?

Yes - this EOI is non-binding and if invited to participate in future stages, respondents can change their price.

If I submit a response, do I have to sell?

No - this EOI is non-binding and the Department is only seeking to purchase from willing sellers.

How will I know if I am being invited to future stages?

The department will send an email to your nominated email address to advise you of the EOI outcomes once evaluation is complete.

Can I sell my seasonal allocation while still expressing interest?

Yes - the Department is only seeking to purchase permanent water rights and will purchase 'dry'.

FAQ continued

What if my water right is leased for a period, can I submit a response?

Yes – however, the department will assess the conditions of the lease, especially the length, to assess whether it is competitive and could deliver value for money and Basin Plan objectives.

What prices will the government pay for different water right types?

The department does not have set prices that they will pay for water rights, we consider the value for money of each offer using both financial and non-financial data. To assist respondents, we have compiled and published recent market data to help water right owners understand market condition relevant to their water right.

Does the department pay exit fees that can be levied when selling water rights from an IIO?

No – the department will only pay fees and charges relevant to our request to transfer the permanent water right to our ownership. You should seek advice from your IIO regarding any exit fees relevant to you.

More information?

Complementary Information to help submit a response to the EOI:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/restoring-our-rivers-trading-strategy-eoi-complementary-information.pdf>

Compilation of market prices:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/water-entitlement-market-prices-sept-2024.pdf>

Specific questions?

Water Tenders Team
watertenders@dcceew.gov.au

DCCEEW Contact Centre
1800 920 528
Open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm AEDT



Socio-economic impacts



Consideration of socio-economic impacts

- The government has committed to minimising socio-economic impacts as one of the guiding principles for recovering the 450 GL of additional environmental water.
- We are taking a steady and staged approach to water recovery to provide time to consider different options to minimise impacts and for communities to adjust.
- As part of this approach, the EOIs will provide **de-identified** information and time to evaluate and consult on the next phase of voluntary water purchase, particularly within IIO networks.
- Better understanding the spread of willing sellers will also support planning for community adjustment through the \$300 million Sustainable Communities Program.

Consideration of socio-economic impacts

- Section 86ADB of the Water Act requires the Water Minister to consider the socio-economic impact on communities before approving a water purchase program for the 450 GL target.
- Earlier this year the department published socio-economic analysis which updated the Basin Plan Regulation Impact Statement and considered the impacts of the Restoring our Rivers 2024 Selected Catchments Open Tender ahead of its approval.
- Future voluntary water purchase programs, including those arising from the EOIs, will require additional consideration of socio-economic impacts prior to their approval.
- Further information on socio-economic impacts and the Sustainable Communities Program is available on the department's website.

Contact us

Water Tenders Team
watertenders@dcceew.gov.au

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