

# Water Fact Sheet

## #1



### WATER FACTS

Australia is facing a serious water problem – both quantity and quality are under threat.

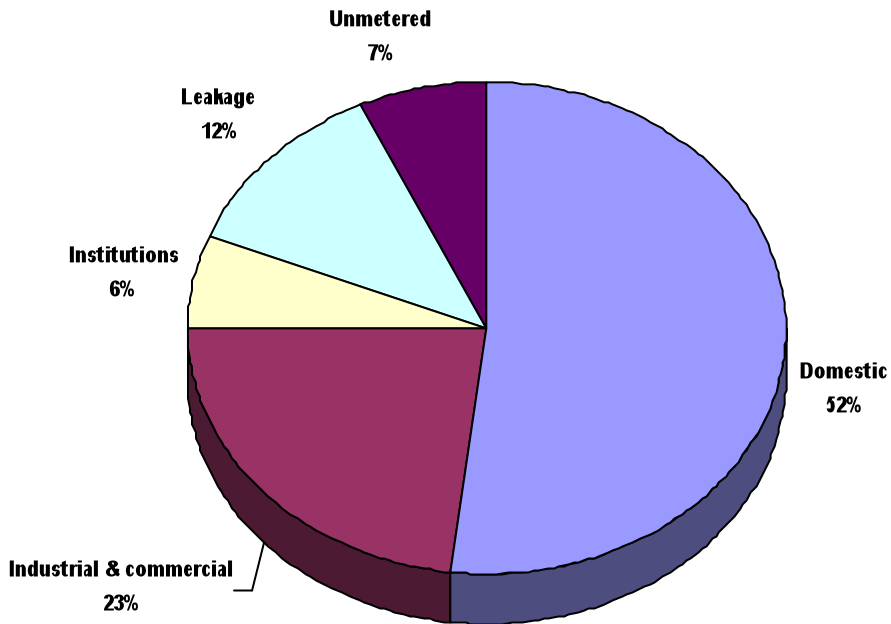
Over the past century we have placed great demands on our water supply and have seriously mismanaged our water usage.

As a result of this Australia now faces:

- Massive salinity problems in the Murray-Darling basin as well as many other parts of Australia.
- More than 20,000 kms of rivers and streams will be seriously salt-affected by 2050.
- More than 17 million hectares will be ravaged by salt by 2050.
- Biodiversity is seriously at risk as a result of declining habitat quality.
- House foundations, sewerage pipes and roads will be salt-ravaged in more than 200 towns by 2050.
- More than 70,000 km of roads will be salt-damaged by 2050.
- 26% of Australia's rivers and streams have more water extracted (primarily for agriculture) than is sustainable.
- 34% of Australia's groundwater is being over-used.
- There are major river flow problems (eg. Snowy River, Gippsland Lakes, etc.) further threatening biodiversity as well as amenity and human health.
- This is made worse by clearfell logging which can reduce water flow in catchments by up to 15%.
- More than 20% of water diverted for agricultural use is wasted due to evaporation and seepage.
- Water restrictions are becoming increasingly widespread and would be considerably more widespread if river flows were kept up to minimum sustainable levels.
- Melbourne's domestic water use increases about 2.8% pa – twice the rate at which households are being formed.

- Our water use per head continues to increase at an alarming rate. There has been a 65% increase in water use of 65% since the early 1980s.

## Who Uses Our Water?



## The average home uses water in the following ways:

