



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Restoring Our Rivers: Draft framework for delivering the 450 GL of additional environmental water

Guide to consultation

The Australian Government has released the Restoring Our Rivers: Draft framework for delivering the 450 GL of additional environmental water.

The draft framework outlines three new programs that the Australian Government will establish to deliver the 450 GL target:



Resilient Rivers Program

– infrastructure projects, rules changes, land and water partnerships and other ways to recover water



Voluntary Water Purchase Program

– purchase of water entitlements from willing sellers



Sustainable Communities Program

– adjustment assistance for Basin communities impacted by voluntary water purchase

The draft framework sets out the three key principles that will guide the approach to water recovery: **enhancing environmental outcomes, minimising socio-economic impacts and achieving value for money.**

Consultation on the draft framework is open from 30 January 2024 to 4 March 2024 to enable communities, industries, farmers, First Nations and environmental groups to have their say on draft principles, program guidelines and potential impacts on communities.

The [Resilient Rivers Program Water Infrastructure Program](#) (RRWIP – state led) is now open. This will provide Australian Government funding for basin states to propose state-led water recovery projects that will improve water management, reduce water losses in the management and delivery of water for production and return water to the environment.

Why we are consulting you

As part of our commitment to work with communities on the design and delivery of 450 GL programs, we invite you to have your say on key parts of the draft framework, including:

- Water Recovery Toolbox – Leasing Opportunities
- Water Recovery Toolbox - Land and Water Partnerships
- Understanding impacts on communities
- Proposed Sustainable Communities Program

[Have your say and read the draft framework for delivering the 450 GL.](#)

We have also prepared a Supporting Information document which outlines outcomes of previous consultation activities and how they have been incorporated into the draft framework for delivering the 450 GL.

Engagement timeline

The release of the draft framework for delivering the 450GL is the first step in delivery of the Basin Plan under the new deadlines. As part of the Australian Government commitment to work with communities on the design and delivery of the 450 GL program, are invited to have your say on the draft framework from the end of January through to early March.

1

PHASE 1 (May to July 2023)

- Sought ideas from communities to deliver Basin Plan water recovery targets in full.

2

PHASE 2 (August to December 2023)

- Focussed discussions with states, peak stakeholder groups, Irrigator Infrastructure Operators (IIOs) and Basin Consultation Committees on the design of potential programs.

3

PHASE 3 (30 January 2024 to 4 March 2024)

- Public consultation open for feedback and input on the following elements of the draft framework for delivering the 450GL, including:



- Sustainable Communities Program
 - *Understanding impacts on communities*
 - *Draft principles*



- Resilient Rivers Program
 - *Land and Water*
 - *Commercial leasing*

- Draft framework for delivering the 450GL released.

- State collaboration

Continued collaboration with Basin States on programs and opportunities to join in engaging industry, IIOs and local government.

- Basin engagement

Continued consultation with IIOs, First Nations, local governments, industry groups and business



Get Involved

Scan the QR code below to find out more about how you can get involved and have your say.

Next steps

Following consultation, the final framework and guidance documents will be published on the department's website.