

# Foreword

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CSIRO is committed to providing scientific advice on the major challenges and opportunities that face Australia. We commend to you this summary of the latest scientific knowledge on the challenges and prospects for managing water resources in Australia.

Australians have always had a strong sense of living in a dry continent, and have a long history of adapting to the extremes of floods and droughts. This has only been heightened in the last decade or so, revealing the vulnerabilities of our water resources and the ecosystems that depend upon them. It is no surprise that our society is increasingly seeking information about the challenges of securing water resources for all users, especially with prospects of growing use of water and changing climate. This book seeks to provide a bridge from the peer-reviewed scientific literature to a broader audience of society while providing the depth of science that this complex issue demands and deserves. The chapters cover the status of Australia's water resources and its future prospects, the many values we hold for water, and how water can be used most effectively to meet the needs of cities, farmers, industries, and the environment. It is important to find a balance between these sometimes conflicting uses and improve their efficiency.

Through the Water for a Healthy Country National Research Flagship, CSIRO is conducting research to help Australia and the world respond to the challenges of providing and sustaining water resources under strongly increasing demand. For more than 50 years, our scientists have been contributing to the growing body of scientific knowledge about water and are now seeking and finding new ways in which Australian communities, industries, and ecosystems, can improve how they use and dispose of water.

We cannot do this important work without the numerous national and international partnerships, collaborations, and networks. We collaborate with Australian and international universities, industry groups, research organisations, government agencies, and governments at every level to undertake excellent science and find and implement practical, scientifically based solutions.

As your national science agency, we will continue to provide scientific input and solutions to the community, industry, and government on understanding and improving the management of our nation's water resources.