



Australian Government



# Sustainable and climate resilient water resource management

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MRGASEAN Water Security Dialogue

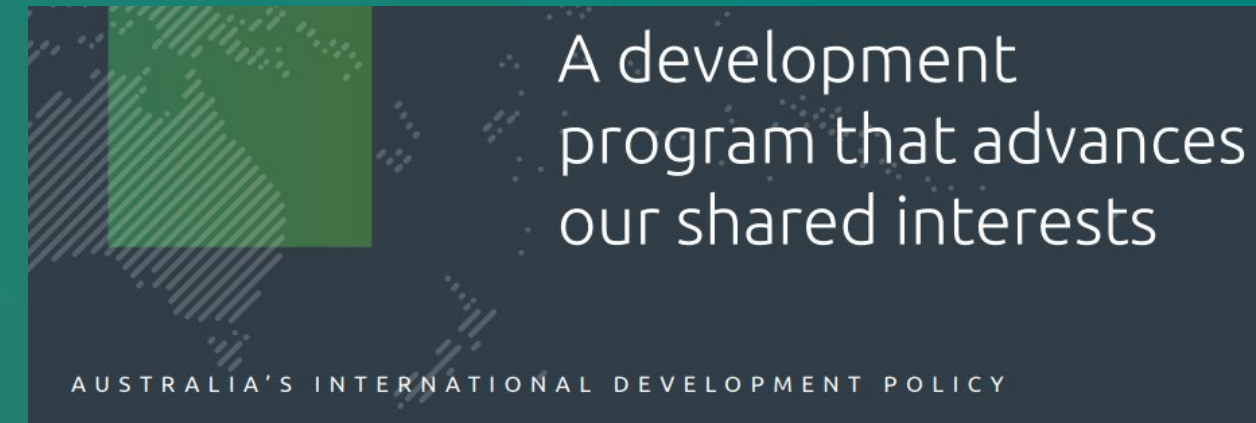
18 September 2024

James Morschel, DFAT, Australia



# Australia-SEA Partnerships

- ASEAN-Australia Special Summit 2024
- Delivery on ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- Upgrading bilateral partnerships
- New International Development Policy
- New SEA Economic Strategy to 2040





Australian Government

# Water Security

This UN Water Security definition (2013) includes reference to:

- Peace & political stability
- Good governance
- Transboundary cooperation
- Innovative financing

## What is Water Security?

"The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability."

*Working definition, UN-Water, 2013*



# National Water Security

- Millennium Drought
  - National Water Initiative 2004
  - National Plan for Water Security 2007
  - Commonwealth Water Act 2007
- Negotiations underway for new National Water Agreement
  - Sustainable water planning
  - Changing climate
  - Fairer deal for First Nations

The screenshot shows the Australian Government website for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The page is titled "A new National Water Agreement" and features a navigation menu with categories: Climate change, Energy, Environment, Water, Parks and heritage, and Science and technology. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / Water / Water policy and resources / National water policy / A new National Water Agreement. A left-hand navigation menu lists various topics, with "National Water Agreement" highlighted. The main content area contains the following text:

**A new National Water Agreement**

The Water Ministerial Council met on 28 June 2024 to discuss a new National Water Agreement. [Ministerial Council communique](#). Ministers announced a further round of public consultation on the Agreement's detailed principles in the third quarter of 2024. This consultation is now underway at the department's [consultation hub](#).

Ministers released the National Water Reform – Outcomes Framework that outlines the proposed National Water Agreement. It includes information on the content and form of a new agreement, governance, reporting and accountability mechanisms. The What We Heard report summarises feedback during the first two rounds of public consultation on a new agreement.

**Information from the Water Ministerial Council meeting, 28 June 2024**

# Basin Water Security



- Strong rules-based order
- Clearly defined water entitlements
- Cap on extractions (followed by clawback)
- Large environmental water reserve
- Substantial (but imperfect) transparency
- *Work-in-Progress!*



# About the Basin Plan Review

The Basin Plan Review is our opportunity to reflect on how the Basin Plan is working, explore how we can respond to the impacts of climate change, and support the Basin into the future.

[Home](#) / [Water management](#) / [Basin Plan Review](#) / About the Basin Plan Review

Print/share  |    

## Water management

River Murray operations



Basin Plan



### Basin Plan Review



About the Basin Plan Review

Roadmap to Basin Plan Review

Early Insights Paper



Reporting on Basin Plan Review progress



## Basin Plan Review

### Key areas of focus for the Basin Plan Review



Climate change



Sustainable water limits



First Nations



Regulatory design



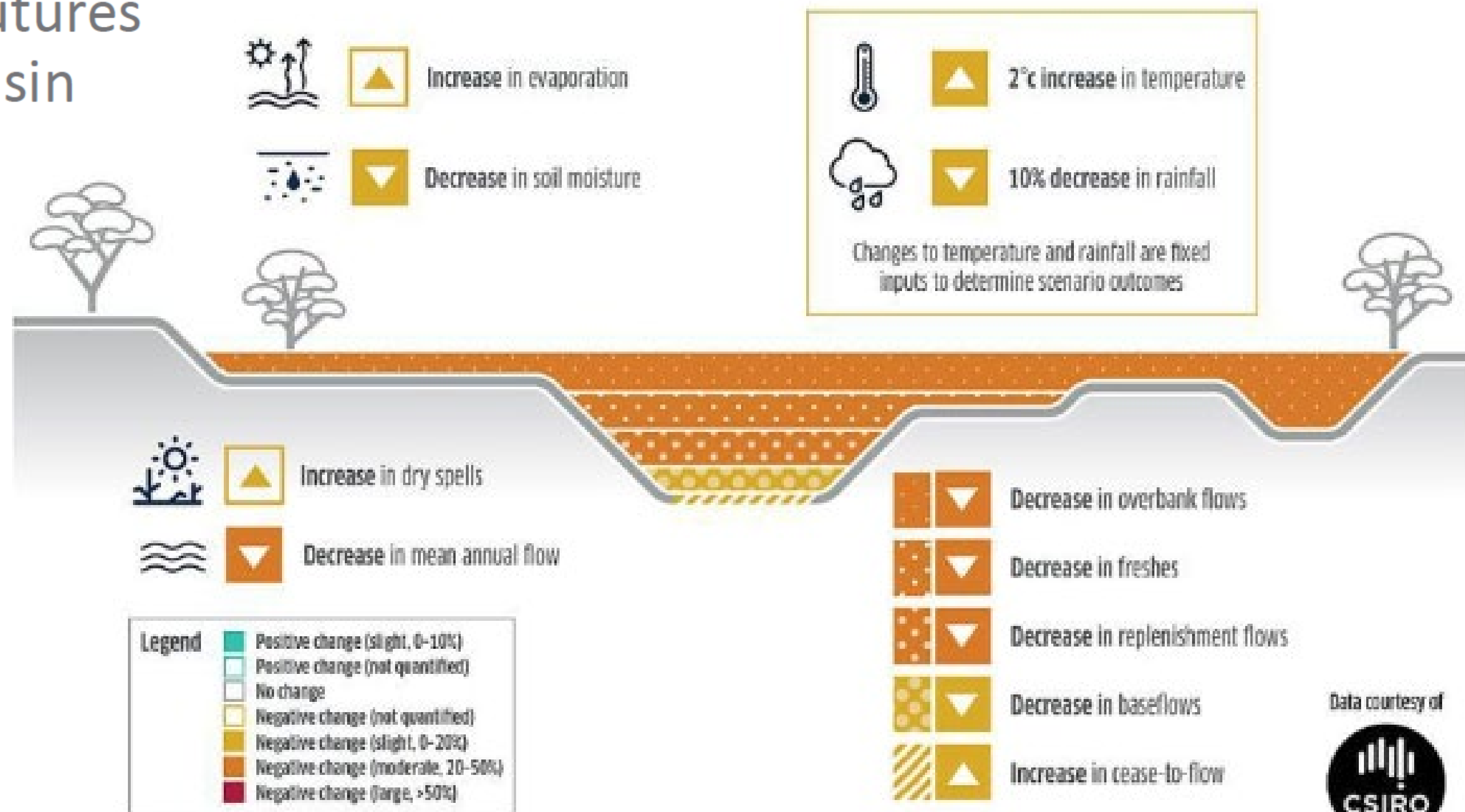
## Plausible Hydroclimate Futures for the Murray-Darling Basin

A report for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority



### A plausible climate scenario for the Basin (Scenario B)

Guided by latest climate science projections (for 2046-2075). These scenarios are compared to the historical record (1895 to present)




Data courtesy of



# International Water Security

*Examples of the way we work:*

**THE  
AUSTRALIAN  
WATER  
PARTNERSHIP**



**Sustainable and climate  
resilient water resource  
management**

**MEKONG-AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP  
CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

**CSIRO**  
Australia's National  
Science Agency



Australian Centre  
for International  
Agricultural Research



**OXFAM**



## Exploring water-energy integration options for the Mekong



# "There are things we can learn and things that we can share. We can help each other."

Andrew Musumeci, Water Technical Officer, Cassowary Coast Regional Council



### Managing Water Scarcity in Asia and the Pacific

Translated summary publications available

Logos for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, AMPERES, Australian Aid, and The Australian Water Partnership.



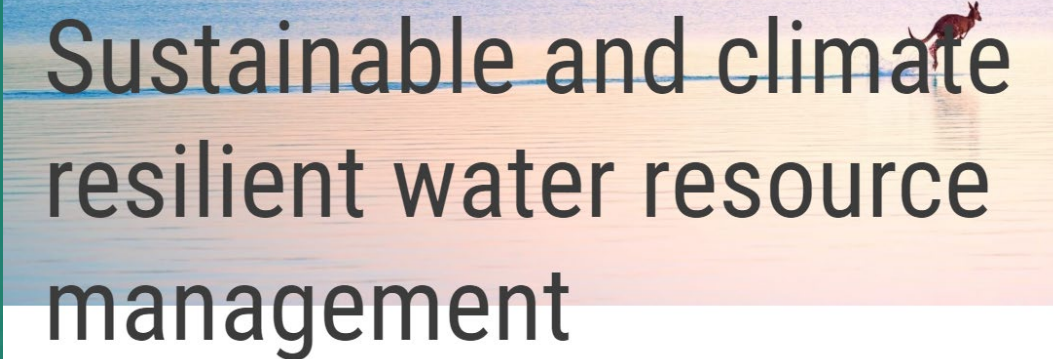
# Key messages

**National-level:** It is good practice to review and update national water governance arrangements to ensure they address changing circumstances.

**Basin-level:** Basin and sub-basin plans enable financing of infrastructure upgrades, conditional on other sustainability measures.

**International-level:** International cooperation matters – as we all have much to learn.

*Thankyou!*



Sustainable and climate resilient water resource management



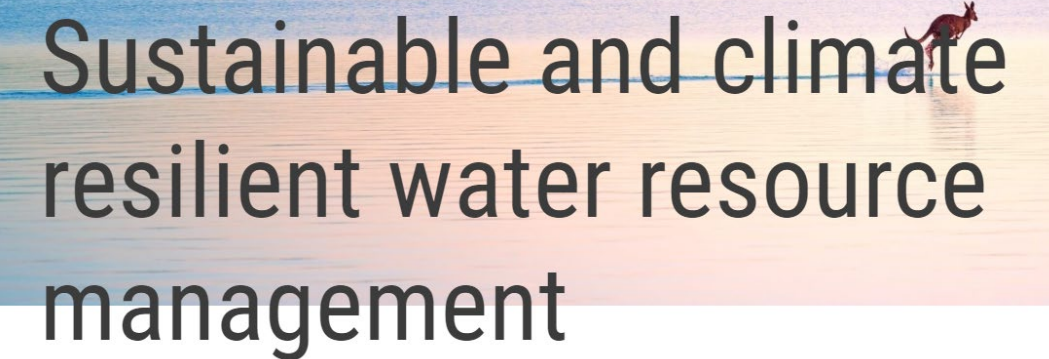
# Contacts

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