

Securing our water future

Current situation

Barwon Water's Anglesea borefield is one of a number of water sources that can supplement the existing Greater Geelong water supply system when storages are low. Our diverse water supply mix is part of a balanced approach to managing the region's water resources and providing greater water security.

While recent rainfall has boosted local storage levels ensuring our system is secure in the short-term, long-term climate and population trends indicate that upgrades to our water supply network will be required in the future to ensure we can meet the growing demands within our region.

To secure water for our future, we are finding smarter ways to use the water we already have, and are gradually shifting our reliance to more climate resilient water sources, such as recycled and desalinated water.

As more and more climate resilient water is introduced over time, we expect that our reliance on surface water and groundwater will lessen.

Barwon Water's Anglesea borefield is important for short-term water security in our region until the next water supply augmentation is delivered.

The climate is becoming hotter and more extreme

Our priority is to ensure we plan and deliver a secure water future for our region. However, our water supply relies on a variable source – rainfall.

It is expected that climate change will alter rainfall patterns, and we will experience more climate extremes from droughts to severe storms.

While it is true our storages are healthy for now, we cannot guarantee this into the future. Over recent decades, Victoria's climate has become drier and warmer, with less water entering our storages.

Since the Millennium Drought, we have seen a "step change" of between 30 to 60 per cent reduction in average annual inflows since 1997, compared to the long-term average.

We will need to adapt to these changing conditions by progressively transitioning to more climate resilient water sources, and in doing so, can also help improve the health of our rivers by returning more water to the environment.

