

# Securing our water future

Over the past two years, we have been working with our community to co-design a water future that meets all of our needs.

Our customers and community have told us that a secure water future is one where there is a diverse mix of water sources, the health and cultural values of our rivers are protected and affordable and equitable access is provided for everyone.

Although our water supply systems are secure in the short term due to above average rainfall, we recognise the immediate need to work on our long-term response.

Our modelling shows that under a worst-case scenario, we will need to find or save an extra 1,000 million litres of water each year for the next 50 years to meet the needs of the Geelong, Golden Plains, Bellarine and Surf Coast system. This equates to an extra 50,000 million litres of water per year by 2070.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Median Growth / Median Climate Change	9,500	8,900	8,300	7,600	6,300	6,300	5,700	5,100	4,400	-1,900	-10,400	-18,900	-27,400
High Growth / High Climate Change	4,600	3,800	3,100	2,300	1,500	700	0	-800	-1,600	-9,700	-23,600	-37,500	-51,500

This target is even greater given we need to return water to rivers to meet the needs of the environment and Traditional Owners.

To respond to this challenge, we have set out a clear plan for action for the next five years to balance all the needs for water in our region by finding smarter ways to use the water we already have and transitioning to water sources that are more climate resilient.

## Short term actions (for the next five years)

- Extend the reach of the MGP so it can supply more of the Geelong, Bellarine and Surf Coast, allowing 3,700ML/year of water to be returned to the Moorabool River for cultural values and environmental needs
- Increase the use of recycled water for non-drinking purposes
- Work with customers to save 1,000ML of drinking water through our sustainable water use program
- Expand our use of smart technology to help save water across our networks and in our homes and businesses
- Implement the integrated water management plan for the new Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas, including supply of Class A recycled water
- Work with local councils to progress localised integrated water management opportunities
- Support improved waterway health on the Barwon River by undertaking complementary river rehabilitation works

The combination of these actions will deliver 4,800 million litres of extra water security.