



# Queensland Government's Healthy Headwaters Program (HHP)



# Healthy Headwaters Program

Australian Government's Priority Project – “Restoring the balance in the Murray Darling Basin”

help Queensland's MDB irrigation communities deal with climate change and reduced consumptive water use

help Queensland's MDB irrigation communities maintain its water dependent economic vibrancy

ensure long term viability of ecological assets by making more water available for the environment

Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) is leading the development and implementation of a suite of projects

The HHP will work in conjunction with the Australian Government Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA)—\$350M project to purchase water entitlements from willing sellers within the state's MDB catchments (Buyback)



## Key Components of \$510m Program

Investment in on-farm water use efficiency measures (including planning, designing investment mechanisms, Pathways to adoption)

- \$115m

Modernise SunWater's delivery system infrastructure - \$40m

Feasibility study for use of Coal Seam Gas Water - \$5m

Buyback (part of overall DEWHA led Buyback program) - \$350m



# Guiding Principles

Key principles guiding project planning and future implementation

Reduction in consumptive water use across the Basin to support healthy river environments and other ecological assets

Increased community and industry resilience in the face of reduced water availability

Irrigators are the decision makers in the change process and key end users of the outcomes

Irrigators and community stakeholders will be involved in the development and delivery of the Healthy Headwaters Program.



# What is the Qld Government's role?

NRW will lead the planning and delivery of five projects

Basin appraisal and district level planning

Design on-farm infrastructure investment mechanisms

Pathways to Adoption—transition to resilient and sustainable irrigation with reduced on-farm water usage

Modernise SunWater's delivery system infrastructure

Feasibility study for use of Coal Seam Gas Water.



# Summary of Queensland's Projects

## Project 1 – Queensland MDB appraisal and district level planning

In consultation with irrigation communities and other stakeholders, this project will:

- conduct a Queensland MDB-wide appraisal

- develop irrigation district level plans

- identify water savings and investment opportunities at the district level

- identify social, economic and environmental issues, impacts and benefits at the district level

- integrate outcomes with the projects relating to development and implementation of on-farm infrastructure investment mechanisms.



## Project 2 – Design on-farm infrastructure investment mechanisms

This project will:

explore the feasibility of a range of potential investment options

engage stakeholder, industry and community representatives in doing so

develop subsequent shared investment processes suitable for consideration and take-up by water users interested in participating water use efficiency initiatives on the farm



## **Project 3 – Pathways to Adoption: Implementing the transition to resilient and sustainable irrigation with reduced on-farm water usage.**

This project will:

deliver and fund the tools and mechanisms developed in Project 2

provide information to stakeholders on the objectives and timing of the program

provide communication and information packages to assist irrigators

provide support tools to underpin the adoption of changed technologies

implement appropriate monitoring frameworks to measure water savings in MDB districts.



## Project 4 – Modernisation of SunWater Infrastructure

This project will:

focus on hardware upgrades for 6 schemes including St George

combine work on improving efficiencies

- stream flow

- reduction in energy consumption

- improved measurement of water releases

- reduced losses through evaporation to generate savings

identify water savings and benefits to environmental assets

link to activities in other projects.



## Project 5 – Feasibility study for use of Coal Seam Gas Water

analyse opportunities, risks and practicability of using coal seam gas water

analyse the supply and demand aspects of coal seam gas water and impacts on surface and ground water systems.



# Program Timetable

## Program Development & Approval

Timeframe	Action
31 Oct 08	NRW and SunWater Project Plans drafted for review by Sponsor Group and incorporation into Queensland's Program Proposal
Dec/Jan 09	Queensland's Program Proposal to Australian Government for (without Prejudice) Due Diligence checking
28 Feb 09	Proposal to Premier for endorsement
Mar 09	Consideration and decision by COAG
1 Jul 09	Target date for IHP funding availability to NRW for commencement of project implementation

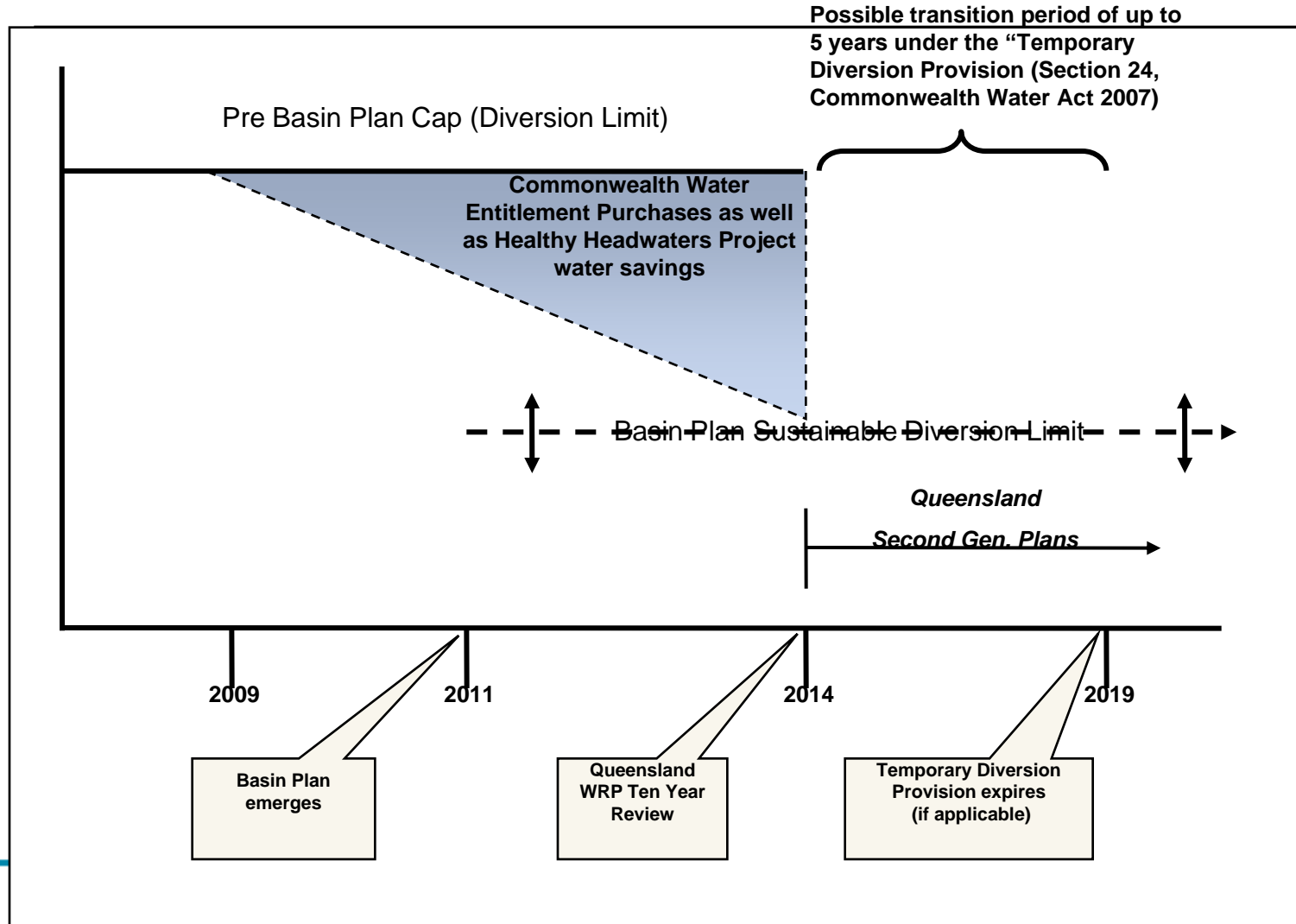


So where does this all fit into  
the big picture?

Indeed what might that bigger picture look  
like



## Sustainable Diversion Limit Timeline, Queensland MDB (Indicative)





Any Questions?



## A few questions from us then?

How do water users, their representative interests and related community wish to be engaged in this initiative?

How does this water using community wish to be involved?

To what extent do water users believe that there is good potential for significant water gains to be made via collaborative investment by government in water use efficiency measures on the farm?



## Need to know more?

Key contacts from NRW include

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