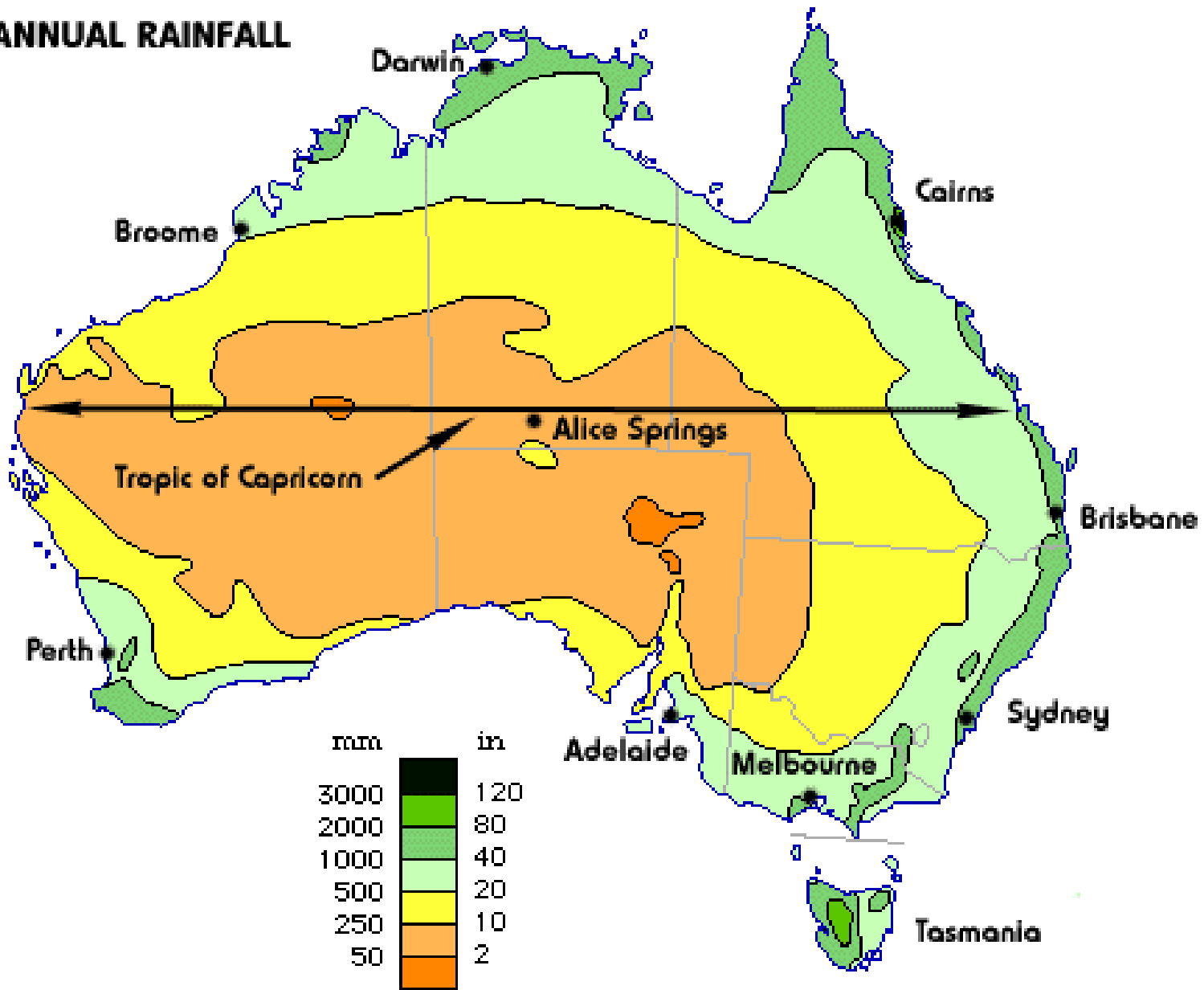




# AUSTRALIA

# MANAGING ITS WATER RESOURCES

# ANNUAL RAINFALL



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# Main elements of Australia's strategy

- Implementation of water reform framework
- Regional approaches for on-ground action



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# The 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- States/Territories have responsibility for land and water resources
- Focus on regional development and drought proofing
- Sustainability emerging as an issue in the early 1980s



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# The Water Reform Framework

- Water reform framework signed by Governments in 1994
- Urban, rural and wastewater industries
- Economic, environmental and social objectives
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of water management and services



# Reform Measures

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- Pricing
- Allocations
- Trading
- Water for the environment
- Service provision on a commercial basis
- Institutional arrangements
- Public consultation and education
- Criteria for new investment in infrastructure



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# National Competition Policy

- Pricing principles
- Fair competition between government and private sector business
- Specific reforms to gas, electricity, water and road transport industries
- National Competition Policy assessments and payments

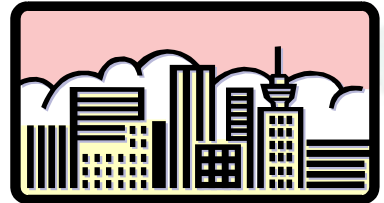
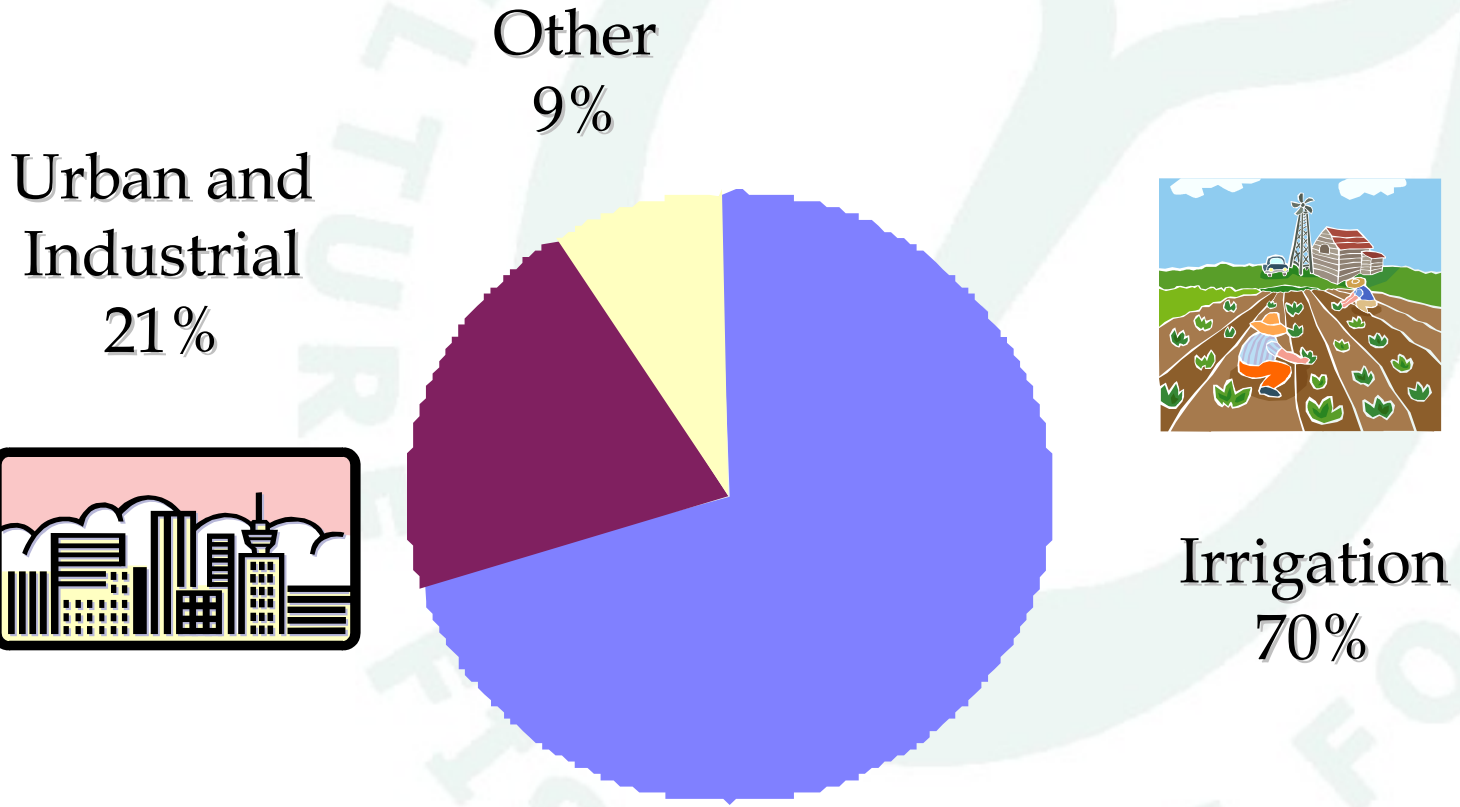


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# Water Use

Total of 23 000 Gigalitres of water is used in Australia per year







# Urban Water Reform

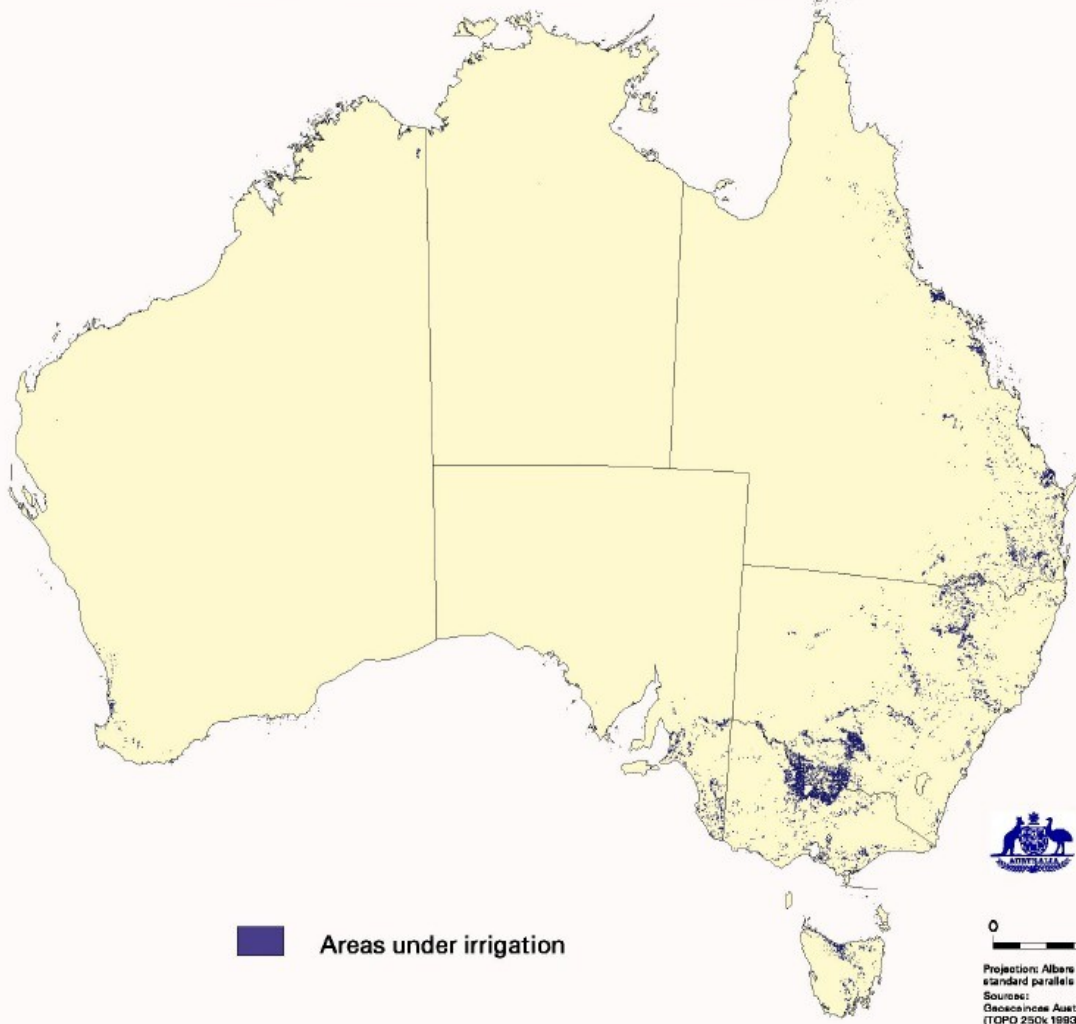
- Urban reform substantially completed
- Urban demand increasing
- Strategies to reduce consumption
- Recycling and reuse
- Competition with irrigated agriculture




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## IRRIGATION AREAS OF AUSTRALIA



 Areas under irrigation



0 1000km

Projection: Albers Equal Area with standard parallels 18° S and 36° S.  
Sources:  
Geoscience Australia: Coastline/State Boundaries (TOPO 250k 1993)  
1996/97 Land Use of Australia, version 2, National Land & Water Resources Audit



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# Water Property Rights

- Provide security and certainty for users
- Underpin water trading and improved efficiency
- Complex and difficult to implement



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# Water Trading

- Reduces impact of reduced allocations for users
- Encourages higher value uses
- Helps drive efficient water use
- Water trading increasing
- Impediments and third party impacts



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# Water Use Efficiency

- Provides additional water to
  - address environmental needs
  - provide for sustainable development
- On-farm and conveyance systems
- Improved management and technology



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# Water for the Environment

- Critical part of water reform process
- Complements sustainable production objectives
- Clear benefits evident
- Social and economic impacts



# **WATER REFORM:**

# **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**



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# Regional Approaches

- Reform principles insufficient
- Regional scale action required
- Strategic regional and partnership approach
- Building on Decade of Landcare
- Led to Natural Heritage Trust which commenced in 1996

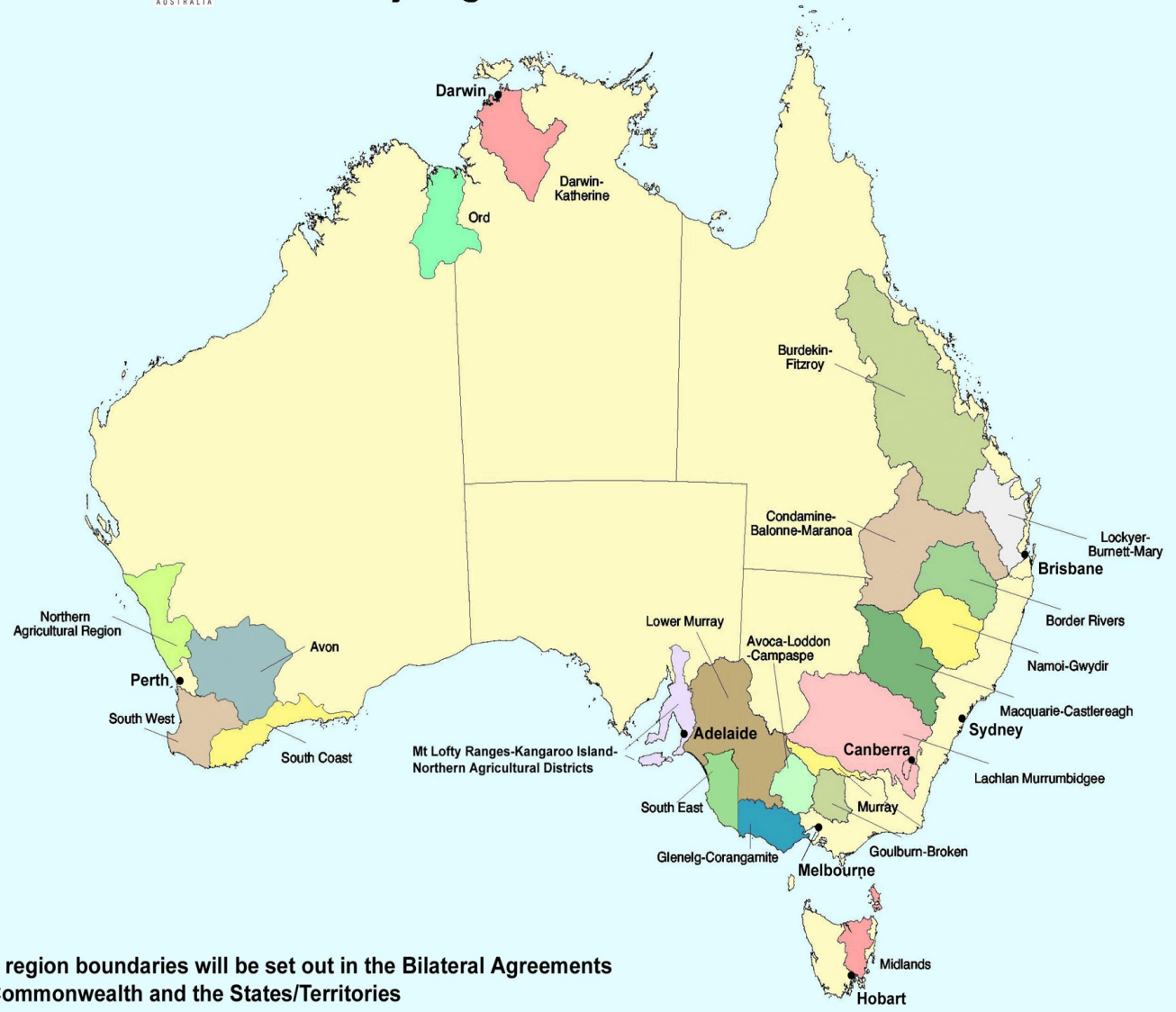




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# National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality- 21 Priority Regions



Note: Precise region boundaries will be set out in the Bilateral Agreements between the Commonwealth and the States/Territories



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# NAP Key Elements

- Standards and targets
- Integrated catchment management plans
- Capacity building
- Improved governance framework
- Clearly articulated roles for Governments and community
- Public communication program



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# Extension of the NHT

- Builds on regional focus of NAP
- 3 connected objectives
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Sustainable use of resources
  - Capacity building
- Rivercare, Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare



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# Community Involvement

- Centrepiece of NAP and NHT
- Local knowledge to support planning and decision making
- Accreditation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Capacity building
- Facilitators and coordinators



# Conclusion

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- Water reform framework and regional approaches
- Partnerships
- Implementation is complex
- Progress is being made
- Further reform is achievable