

WATER ACTION COALITION (WAC) CHARTER

MISSION

The mission of WAC is to ensure a sustainable water future for South Australia. A future that ensures an equitable use of all water resources that does not compromise the health of interdependent ecosystems for future generations.

To achieve these outcomes WAC will forcefully lobby and organise events to publicly advocate for water in all its forms to remain the common property of Australia and its ecosystems. WAC will vigorously pursue legislation by all Parliaments that will:

- Secure all water in its rivers, streams and groundwater as the common property of Australia, to be managed as a common good and not traded as a profitable commodity.
- Deliver viable supply and reuse systems to all communities, city and country, without harm to interdependent ecosystems and the community.
- Ensure that water is managed efficiently and effectively for community use today and conserved for future generations.
- Respect Aboriginal knowledge of water conservation and healthy water systems, its importance to Australia's oldest culture and to modern water management.

AIMS

The aims of WAC are to publicly support sustainable actions that will:

- Restore environmental flows to the River Murray and Lower Lakes.
- Adopt policies that reduce demand for water, reduce waste and promote conservation that recognises the finite nature of our water resources.
- Guard against exploitation of the ancient waters of the Great Artesian Basin and other natural water resources.
- Stop and reverse privatisation of surface and groundwater.
- Ensure South Australia receives a fair share of the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) water resources which respects the needs of South Australia and interdependent ecosystems.
- Maximise water supplies through stormwater harvesting in our cities as an immediate priority.
- Develop innovative ways of recycling wastewater; stop all discharges that will damage South Australia's environmental heritage and fragile ecosystems.
- Make pollution of water bodies a criminal offence.
- Prevent the construction of damaging desalination plants, especially in Gulf St. Vincent and Spencer Gulf.
- Require governments to ensure that industry and agriculture does not over-exploit water resources at the expense of interdependent ecosystems.
- Avoid large engineering solutions and maintain a bias towards minimising impact.
- Change public policies to ensure that Parliaments and Governments treat communities as equal partners in development while ensuring the sustainability of water solutions and the integrity of ecosystems both now and into the future.

We demand the fundamental human right to clean, affordable water. This must be enshrined in legislation. We need laws that do not sanction weirs, pipelines, diversion and desalination. We need Parliaments to enact laws that commit Governments to conservation, protection and water equality for all Australians.