



# Water Information Research and Development Alliance

Bringing together CSIRO's R&D expertise in water and information sciences and the Bureau of Meteorology's operational role in hydrologic analysis and prediction to transform the way Australia manages water resources.

WIRADA – a water information R&D initiative between the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship

**Water scarcity is a major challenge facing Australia. The need to accurately monitor, assess and forecast the availability, condition and use of our water resources is now more vital than ever.**



## Transforming Australia's water resources information

Water resources information is currently collected and held by hundreds of organisations across Australia, making it difficult to monitor the status and use of Australia's water resources and to accurately forecast water availability. Under the *Water for Future* program, the Commonwealth government is investing in a long-term solution to this problem.

Backed by key stakeholders, the *Commonwealth Water Act 2007* and the \$450 million '*Improving Water Information Program*', the Bureau of Meteorology's role has expanded to transform Australia's water resources information; information that is essential for sound decision-making by governments, business and the community.

Improved accessibility, integration and use of national water resources information will yield huge benefits through more informed policy and infrastructure decisions, and better evaluation of water sector reforms leading to greater confidence in Australia's water management.

Achieving these outcomes requires substantial innovation and this calls for a world-class research and development program in water information.

## A water information alliance

Together, the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO have established the Water Information Research and Development Alliance (WIRADA). WIRADA is a strategic investment of \$50m over five years that will yield most of the innovation required by the Bureau to fulfil its national water information mandate.

The alliance brings together CSIRO's nation-leading expertise in water and information sciences with the Bureau's new operational responsibilities in water information. It focuses over 40 leading researchers from CSIRO on a range of topics including data interoperability, hydrologic modelling, water accounting and water resource assessment.

## Leveraging a major R&D program

WIRADA leverages Australia's premier water research program, CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country National Research Flagship. The Flagship has recently undertaken an urgently needed assessment of water availability in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) through the Sustainable Yields Project and has been an innovator in water information through the Water Resources Observation Network (WRON) project.

Building on insights from the Sustainable Yields and WRON projects, CSIRO will deliver new science and technology that will enable the Bureau to put into operation real-time interactive analysis of water information and advanced methods for forecasting of water availability and flooding across Australia.

The shared vision of the Bureau and CSIRO, through WIRADA, is to improve the management of Australia's water resources by delivering value-added water information products, based on a comprehensive and robust nationwide water information system.

## The outcome

WIRADA aligns Australia's premier capability in water and information sciences R&D with the Bureau's new role as the national water information provider. Through WIRADA, the adoption of CSIRO's leading science and technology by the Bureau will result in vastly improved water data integration, water resources assessments, national water accounts, flood forecasts and water availability outlooks.

## Further information

For further information about WIRADA please visit [www.bom.gov.au/water](http://www.bom.gov.au/water) and [www.csiro.au/WfHC](http://www.csiro.au/WfHC)