

# Study Guide for the Australian Collaboration Fact and Issue Sheet

## URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND USE

### FOR REVIEW

**1.** The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures indicate that most households use some form of water conservation device in their home.

- List as many “water conservation devices” that could be found in a home as you can.
- Suggest reasons why the remaining households still do not use any sort of water conservation device in their home.

**2.** Use the information in the second paragraph to demonstrate that the distribution of Australia’s plentiful rainfall distribution does not match our regions of high population density.

**3.** How will climate change alter the water supply to urban areas in the future?

**4.** List in descending order, the major uses of Australian water.

**5.** What do you understand the following terms to mean:

a.) Mains supply

b.) Reticulated water supply

c.) Self extraction of water

**6.** Explain why South Australia has a much higher proportion of households having a rainwater tank than the rest of Australian households.

**7.** What current % change has there been in the amount of water used each year per head?

**8.** How has this change in water use been achieved?

**9.** Does this mean that our urban water consumption has decreased overall in the same time period? Explain your answer.

**10.** Define the following terms and give examples:

a.) Demand Management

b.) Supply Management

### FOR DISCUSSION

**11.** Compare the urban water supply of 2 of the major Australian cities. Look for any similarities and/or differences.

**12.** Climate change will alter Australia’s urban water supply. List the methods that are either presently used or that may be used in the future to secure urban water supply in Australia’s major cities. Select at least one of these strategies and discuss any controversy it may generate.

**13.** Refer to Figure 1. Household Water Use in 2000 – 2001. Identify 3 differences in water use that exist between states and suggest reasons for them.

**14.** How could more Australians be encouraged to install rainwater tanks? What advantages would this create?

**15.** What changes have occurred in your home, city or state that are aimed at reducing urban water use?

## FOR RESEARCH

**16.** Use Table 1. Household Water Use to devise a comprehensive set of measures/rules/regulations aimed at reducing water use that should exist in urban households in your state.

**17.** Investigate one measure to increase water supply to urban areas. What is the plan? What are the advantages and disadvantages associated with it? Express your opinion of the measure and justify your view.

**18.** Use the Australian Conservation Foundation's website, [www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au) to investigate the Australian Conservation Foundation's views on the methods to secure urban water supplies in the future for one Australian city. Use the search facility on the website and use "urban water issues" as your search phrase.

**19.** Use the Water Services Australia website to access the latest WSAA Report Card. Read the Introduction and then the Conclusion of the report. Imagine that you are the speech writer for this organisation. Prepare a 5 minute talk based on the Report Card for the organisation's CEO to deliver to a group of journalists.

**20.** Investigate a new suburb that has been developed with water sensitive urban design principles incorporated into the design. Sandhurst and Lynbrook in Melbourne have been designed in this way. Use the internet and Melbourne Water's website to gather information on water sensitive urban design. Go to <http://thesource.melbournewater.com.au> and type "water sensitive urban design" into the search box. Make a table of the design ideas and their impacts.