



Enhancing the News

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Water a dwindling resource

As industry experts claim the nation is in the midst of the “worst drought ever”, public attention is focussed on the water crisis like never before. Desperate farmers, drought-stricken stock and rising food prices are just a few effects of diminishing water supplies.

It has been suggested years of above-average rainfall is needed to ease the water shortage. The trend towards drier conditions and a predicted 40 per cent reduction in rainfall by 2040, illustrated by a CSIRO report, gives little hope of relief for some time to come.

While Prime Minister John Howard tries to gain support for his plan for the Commonwealth to take control of the Murray-Darling river system, the NSW Government debate whether recycling waste water or a desalination plant would be the preferred option to boost drinking water supplies. Householders are being urged to take responsibility for their own water usage and install rainwater tanks and eco-friendly devices such as water-conserving shower-heads.

Water is now a more precious resource than ever. To encourage primary students to be water-wise show them this [episode of Ttn](#). For resources on waning water solutions take a look at [Catalyst: From the Toilet to the Tap/anti oxidant Supplements/ediacara](#) that puts water recycling to the test, and the feature article, [Water Restrictions: Could Australia Really Run Out of Water?](#) Also, [Insight: Running the River](#) examines the fight for control of the Murray-Darling river system. [Remembering Rain](#) (and its [partnering study guide](#)) offers a glimpse into the lives, hopes and fears of those affected in the bush. And a panel of water experts discuss the water crisis in [Difference of Opinion: Waterproofing Australia](#).