

Integrating Australia's Water Data

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Abstract. Australia is facing an unprecedented water scarcity crisis and governments are responding with major policy, regulatory, market and infrastructure interventions. No matter what facet of water reform one is talking about, good intelligence on the country's water resource base and how it is trending is a vital ingredient for good decision making. Though most individual water businesses and agencies have an adequate view of the water resources under their control, gaining a national view has always been a fraught exercise. In recognition of this problem, the Bureau of Meteorology has been tasked with the challenge of integrating water data sets collected across Australia by over 250 organisations. In this paper, we look at how the Bureau is going about this task and at the suite of water information products that will arise from a coherent national water data set.