



Minister's Foreword

Informed communities making sound decisions about water resources – this is an aspiration challenging individuals, communities and governments worldwide.

As we move into 2005 we acknowledge the United Nation's Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005 - 2014, and water is listed as an important theme. Political commitment, education and community action are listed as key activities towards sustainable water conservation.

Victoria is committed to sustainable water resources. This year the Bracks Government made a significant commitment to water reform in Victoria by launching the White Paper – Securing our Water Future Together. Implementing this policy, and making better water management a reality, is the next major challenge facing all Victorians.

Education and community action are core values of the Waterwatch Victoria program. This year the program has continued to engage Victorians in local river health activities and raise awareness of key water resources issues.

This year's Waterwatch yearbook celebrates the theme 'Diverse Communities – Common Values'. It showcases the diversity of Waterwatch participants and activities through a range of regional case studies. The Waterwatch program transcends boundaries and draws diverse groups together to learn more about and protect our precious water resources.

The future direction of Waterwatch Victoria looks bright after undertaking a formal review of the statewide program's efforts over the last 5 years. This reflection has offered opportunities to update the program's strategic plan, and refine its objectives and performance measures for the next 5 years.

I congratulate the Coordinators and volunteer participants that devote their time and efforts to river health activities. Your contribution is helping to shape a sustainable future for all Victorians. Well done.

Honourable John Thwaites, MP
Minister for Environment and Water

