



## MINISTER'S FOREWORD



This year, it was with great pleasure that I awarded certificates to over 300 volunteer Waterwatch groups and individuals recognizing their long term involvement with the Waterwatch program. The ongoing commitment and enthusiasm of all those involved in Waterwatch demonstrates the strength of the Victorian Government's partnership approach in action. By working with local communities and making collaborative decisions on water issues, much can be achieved.

We are progressing towards many of the key objectives and outcomes identified in the Government's *Our Water Our Future* action plan.

Rivers are a key component of this action plan. They make up only a small portion of the Victorian landscape, and yet their overall significance to the economy, the ecology and social fabric of Victoria is immense.

Waterwatch Victoria continues to be an important river health education and management program actively involving communities across the State.

Waterwatch Victoria's 2005 yearbook highlights a range of regional initiatives that engage and educate different sectors of the Victorian community in sustainable water management. The diversity of activities is testimony to the strength of the program, and also its ability to connect local communities with local water issues.

I congratulate all Waterwatch Coordinators and volunteers for their efforts and ongoing commitment to a sustainable future.



Honourable John Thwaites, MP  
Minister for Environment and Water