

Minister's Foreword



The drought gripping Victoria for the last few years has created a challenging time in Victoria's history. Record low rainfalls have tested local communities and decision-makers managing scarce water resources for the best social, environmental and economic outcomes possible.

The stark effects of drought have generated discussion about what assets communities value the most, and how we can more efficiently share water between different users and needs. This drought has given us the opportunity to better understand the impact of extreme climatic conditions, and the implications for water management. It has also highlighted the shared responsibility of all Victorians in making the most of the water we have.

In 2006/07, the Waterwatch program played a significant role in connecting local communities with local water issues through education, monitoring and partnerships. By understanding the issues, individuals and communities can make informed decisions.

Waterwatch's extensive networks have also provided social support to those doing it tough in the drought. It has helped communities remain positive by taking action and contributing to solutions to water scarcity. The hidden value of community-based programs like Waterwatch is often understated, but vitally important for Victorians working together toward a sustainable future.

Waterwatch Victoria's 2006/07 Yearbook demonstrates and celebrates how the Waterwatch program is helping communities rise to these challenges by connecting local people with local waterway and catchment issues, and building their understanding and capacity to respond.

I congratulate all Waterwatch coordinators, volunteers and supporters for their ongoing commitment and efforts toward creating a sustainable future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Holding'.

Tim Holding, MP
Minister for Water