

# Lower Hunter Water Security Plan



The Lower Hunter Water Security Plan is a whole-of-government approach to ensuring the region has a resilient and sustainable water future that contributes to regional health and prosperity and is supported by the community. The plan outlines a program of actions to secure water for the Lower Hunter over the next 40 years.

## Water conservation

**Water conservation is key to managing the current and future supply and demand balance.**

We have focused on improving the efficiency of our water system and have reduced leakage by 34% over the last four years. We have continued to work with our community to assist them in conserving water, and they have responded reducing demand by 11% in 2019-20.

Hunter Water will lead ongoing water conservation efforts by:

- continuing to invest in reducing leaks from the water distribution system
- continuing to use the Love Water program and permanent water conservation measures, Smart Water choices, to encourage long-term behavioural change
- supporting customers to find and repair leaks
- expanding the schools' program to help students save water at school and at home
- working with major and large water customers, councils and businesses on water efficiency management plans and alternative water supply projects.



### Key features

- Reduces the amount of water extracted from the environment for consumption
- Reduces the amount of water treated and pumped around the system
- Ambitious goals for using less drinking water and reducing leaks -see goals over page
- Reflects the community's strong support for water conservation.



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## Our water conservation goals



**Total customer drinking water use**  
Reduce by up to 17%\*



**Leakage**  
Reduce to 50 litres per connection per day

**Household drinking water use**  
Reduce to 155 litres per person per day

**Business and industry drinking water use**  
Reduce by 2 billion litres per year\*

Hunter Water will:

- reduce leakage from 69 litres per connection per day to 50 litres per connection per day over the next five years
- reduce water loss from leaks and breaks in its distribution network
- consolidate the leakage gains made through the recent drought

Once achieved, Hunter Water will be a leading water utility in water loss management in Australia.

In collaboration with the community and stakeholders, Hunter Water will:

- work towards achieving the above goals over the next ten years
- support the community to adopt water saving behaviours and install water-efficient fittings and appliances
- reduce average residential water consumption in the Lower Hunter from 190 litres per person per day to 155 litres per day
- continue to build on the water savings made during the recent drought.

\*Compared to expected water use based on 2016-2018 baseline