

Barwon Water

Water for Our Future

Panel 1 - Day 4

REMIT: With less rain and a hotter climate, it's time to think differently about how we use water and where it comes from.

How can we create a new water future that balances all our needs?

OUR VISION

Our water future is...

A secure future where our rivers flow, our foods grow and our impact is low.

Resilient, innovative and sustainable, with abundant water from a range of sources and where we actively protect and improve water for the environment.

Ethical, healthy and responsible, with affordable and equitable access for everyone.

A shared responsibility, by valuing and conserving water and respecting the diverse needs of our community, cultures, and the environment.

CRITERIA

Introduction:

These principles are fundamental and overarching and are to be applied across each of the criteria.

Principles:

- Protect, preserve and improve the environment
- Minimise disadvantage to the community and environment
- Baseline social and environmental measures to be established and monitored. If offsets are used they need to be treated with caution and closely monitored.
- Do no harm
- Corporate citizenship

Theme 1: Social Impact and Equity

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Social Impact and Equity	Does this option apportion responsibility fairly and facilitate equitable access to water services across all users?
	Does an assessment of risks and potential benefits protect social equity?
	Is the process transparent? Have expert and community consultation and engagement processes been met.

Theme 2: Finance & Economics

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Cost benefit analysis	Holistic (financial, environmental, social and cultural) cost benefit analysis of projects must be justifiable and transparent in the short, mid and long term to cover the expenditure and shared in a fair and balanced way.
Economic value	Is this economically viable in terms of cost to our community?
Economic incentive	To what extent and in what ways does this proposal, both in planning and in regular use, encourage water saving practices and initiatives?

Theme 3: Environmental

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Manage environmental impact	Implement a systemic and regular environmental monitoring program from an established baseline, to understand and monitor the environmental impact. In consultation with all stakeholders, all activities and infrastructure will have a minimal negative impact on the natural environment and where possible a positive impact. Can any unintended <i>negative</i> environmental consequences be remedied or offset?
First Nations input	All decisions impacting the environment will be made in consultation with the traditional custodians of the land. Being mindful of cultural impact.
Zero emissions	Do any current and future operational activities aim for zero net emissions and comply with the advancement of technology and most up to date environmental regulation?
Climate change adaptation	To what extent does this option rely on rain water? Is this option vigilant and proactive to adapt to climate change? Does the feasibility of solutions and environmental outcomes monitor impacts to all water systems and dependent ecosystems as a priority?

Theme 4: Community and Social Outcomes

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Affordability and Equity	Does the solution deliver secure, affordable access to water for all (business/private/culture) and will the capital and running costs also be affordable?
Public Education and Communication	Does the form of communication and education deliver measurable positive outcomes? These include increased awareness of water issues, a lower average water consumption and positive behavioural changes.
Social Benefits	Does this create a net benefit for the majority of the community? E.g. Health, recreation, social impact, employment etc.

Theme 5: Technology, Science & Innovation

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Technology and Infrastructure	Is it feasible for this to be completed in an appropriate timeframe and have the ability to sustain longevity with the continuing advancements of technology throughout the future.
Science & Innovation	Is there a smarter way to do this? Considering innovation, scientific/technological breakthroughs from a range of evidence.
Climate and Population Change	Does this option offer flexibility in water supply in response to population change and to fluctuating rainfall, environmental and weather conditions?

Theme 6: Sustainability

Criteria Heading	Criteria description
Circular economy	All resources for this option should be recycled and reused at an optimal level.
Sustainable usage	Will this option advance the socially and environmentally responsible use of water and other resources?

Minority Report

Ref.	Comment
The principle of 'Do no harm'	Concerned that this is physically impossible. No matter what is done some harm will be done to someone or something. Clearly action can be taken to offset but a degree of harm will have been done. This remains the case even in the event of doing remediation works.