



Abbreviations and Glossary

GDE	groundwater-dependent ecosystems
ha	hectares
km ²	square kilometres
L/s	litres per second
m	metre
M	million
mg/L	milligrams per litre = parts per million (ppm)
ML	megalitres (1 million litres)
ML/yr	megalitres per year
mm	millimetre
mm/month	millimetres per month
mm/year	millimetres per year
Mya	million years ago
TDS	total dissolved solids

ARMCANZ/ANZECC National Principles

Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) and Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) National Principles for the Provision of Water for Ecosystems. A key objective of the national principles is to sustain and, where necessary, restore ecological processes and the biodiversity of water-dependent ecosystems, recognising that appropriate water flow is critical for maintaining natural ecological processes and biodiversity.

aquifer	a rock or sediment that is porous, allowing large quantities of water to be stored; and permeable, allowing water to move
beneficial uses	legal recognition of the values of a water resource and determines how water may be used, managed and protected under the <i>Water Act</i> . Beneficial uses include: agriculture, aquaculture, public water supply, environment, cultural, industry, rural stock and domestic uses.
consumptive pool	the amount of water resource that can be made available for consumptive use in a given water system under the rules of the relevant water plan.
consumptive use	use of water for private benefit consumptive purposes including irrigation, industry, urban and stock and domestic use.
evapotranspiration	quantity of water transferred from the soil to the atmosphere by evaporation and plant transpiration
environmental and other public benefit outcomes	environmental and other public benefit outcomes are defined as part

of the water planning process, are specified in water plans and may include a number of aspects, including:

- environmental outcomes: maintaining ecosystem function (eg. through periodic inundation of floodplain wetlands); biodiversity, water quality; river health targets;

- other public benefits: mitigating pollution, public health (eg. limiting noxious algal blooms), indigenous and cultural values, recreation, fisheries, tourism, navigation and amenity values.

floodout	area of extensive alluvial plains formed by successive overflowing of a river channel
head	height to which water will rise in a monitoring bore connected to an aquifer
hydraulic gradient	measure of the decrease in head per unit distance in the direction of groundwater flow
LCD	litres per capita per day
overallocation	refers to situations where with full development of water access entitlements in a particular system, the total volume of water able to be extracted by entitlement holders at a given time exceeds the environmentally sustainable level of extraction for that system.
palaeo-channels	ancient river courses
recharge	process by which water is added to an aquifer either from rainfall, stream flow infiltration, or from an adjacent aquifer
surface water	water that flows over land and in water courses or artificial channels and is able to be captured and stored and supplemented from dams and reservoirs.
sustainable yield	The groundwater extraction regime, measured over a specified planning timeframe, that allows acceptable levels of stress and protects dependent economic, social, and environmental values
transmissivity	rate at which water is transferred through a unit width of an aquifer under a unit hydraulic gradient
storage coefficient	volume of water an aquifer releases from or takes into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer per unit change of head
water balance	a method of accounting for the inputs and outputs of water to an aquifer
water access entitlement	a perpetual or ongoing entitlement to exclusive access to a share of water from a specified consumptive pool as defined in the relevant water plan.
water allocation	the specific volume of water allocated to water access entitlements in a given period, defined according to rules established in the relevant water plan.

Also see the International Glossary of Hydrology, accessible via a link from <http://www.unesco.org/water>