

# Designing effective foresight processes to anticipate and prepare for climate change in the Murray-Darling Basin

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## Summary

As **participatory foresight** is employed to imagine **desirable water futures** amid climate uncertainty in the Basin, understanding the **diverse values of water** is central to developing processes that allow stakeholders to identify and leverage this diversity in decision-making for future sustainability.

## Rationale

Planning and water policy reform to address declining water futures in the Basin has highlighted the need to:

- ❑ Engage stakeholders in future-making to develop shared visions for the next 20 – 30 years
- ❑ Include diverse perspectives and knowledges in decision-making
- ❑ Develop adaptive participatory processes

## Research Question

How can participatory foresight processes provide insights into water's diverse and plural values that can be leveraged in policy and practice to promote transformational adaptation?

## Key Concepts

**Values: Diversity & Pluralism**

**Socio-technical imaginaries**



## Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of how relationships with water influence desired water futures
- Development of participatory foresight practices that enable stakeholders to navigate diverse values in decision-making for sustainable water futures

## Objectives

The study will:

- ❑ Benchmark the existing value perspectives of water
- ❑ Examine what value perspectives are dominant (or marginalised) in shared visions of desired water futures, and
- ❑ Explore how values can activate leverage points for transformation

## Methods

Grounded in environmental sustainability science, this interdisciplinary study will use a **multiple-case exploratory approach**.

Methods include:

- ❑ Qualitative content analysis
- ❑ Comparative case studies: Discourse analysis & action research



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