

Water perspectives elegantly collected

In *Australia's Water Resources: From Use to Management*, John Pigram serves the current bubbling Australian water debate by both getting to its crux and mapping its tributaries and ripples.

Pigram is an Adjunct Professor with the Centre for Ecological Economics and Water Policy Research at the University of New England. With his involvement in water research spanning more than four decades, he is well placed to offer insight into Australia's water crisis.

With the critical state of water resources in many areas, attitudes are changing and we're

focusing on more efficient ways of using the little water we do have. As Pigram notes, 'the emphasis has shifted rapidly from development of Australia's water resources to better management of available supplies'. As such, he sees hope for the environment, but reinforces that strict controls and an application and audit process need to underpin any water use in future.

The book examines the policies and strategies required for water management, and provides wide perspective on water's sustainable use across agriculture, industry, urban and recreational scenarios.

Chapters also deal with water sources and environmental influences, and examples of water management plans implemented across Australia are used to demonstrate what has worked in the past, or what were missed opportunities.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Malcolm Turnbull, recently nominated *Australia's Water Resources* as one of three favoured texts on national water issues. The book's approach makes accessible reading for anyone needing to get up to speed on the debate.



Australia's Water Resources
From Use to Management
John J Pigram

2006, Hardback
ISBN: 0643093370 – AU \$89.95
Available from CSIRO Publishing:
www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5366.htm
Local call 1300 788 000

Nuts and bolts of sustainability online

Sustainable Development Online (SDO) is a growing, submissions-based international reference database and part of EnviroWindows, an environmental information website. According to the SDO website, its role is to 'map the continually changing area of sustainable development, and provide access to important websites built by organisations supporting sustainable development'.

SDO includes a search- and browser-driven catalogue containing hundreds of current sustainability related entries in the categories of:

Enterprises – specifically small and medium sized enterprises.

Networks – a variety of networks including employment; cleaner production; sustainable lifestyle and consumption; and design for sustainability.

Events – special events and conferences related to sustainable development and environmental best practice.

Tools – a reference of tools for researchers; small, medium



Sustainable Development Online: <http://sd-online.ewindows.eu.org>

and large enterprises; and policy makers.

Training courses – focuses on vocational (rather than academic) education and training courses available in the European Union and online distance learning courses internationally.

Each entry gives details, links and a short description. Although SDO is a European website, most of the entries in the catalogue are globally relevant. SDO accepts suggestions for new catalogue entries, which can be submitted via the site. A research team vets submissions for relevance and accuracy.

The result is a nuts and bolts website – it's not pretty, but it works, as a burgeoning starting point resource.

Ecological Internet (EI) is a slightly different portal for environmental sustainability news, expert analysis and information retrieval tools. EI is the umbrella stop for six conservation-driven websites specialising in an environment theme:

EcoEarth – a general environment website dedicated to achieving global environmental sustainability.

Climate Ark – a climate change and global warming website promoting relevant public policy that supports reductions in carbon dioxide and other emissions, and encourages renewable energy, energy conservation and ending deforestation.

Forest Conservation – works to end deforestation, preserve primary and old-growth forests, conserve and sustainably manage other forests, and to commence the age of ecological restoration.

Water Conserve – a water conservation website dedicated to protecting and conserving drinking water and ecosystems worldwide.

Ocean Conserve – provides access to reviewed ocean conservation news and information.

Rainforest – covers the protection of all remaining tropical rainforests and the rights of their inhabitants, including ending ancient rainforest logging and large-scale protected area establishment.



Ecological Internet
www.ecologicalinternet.org

The websites contain many sections, including, but not limited to, news, blogs, action alerts and extensive relevant links for organisations and sites. Together, the six websites receive about 30 000 visits per day, proving their worth to a global readership.