



# Water Policy in Australia: The Impact of Change and Uncertainty (Issues in Water Resource Policy)

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In the last twenty years, policy makers in Australia have been forced to acknowledge that it is not possible to perpetually supply more water at a low cost. Consequently, the country has begun to focus on water resource management through legislative and institutional change?attempting to allocate water in a more economically efficient and socially and environmentally acceptable manner. This book provides insight into the challenges of institutional change, as well as valuable lessons on the design of property rights for complex resources. Contributors from across disciplines address pertinent issues, such as irrigation in the Murray-Darling basin, one of Australia's largest drainage divisions; the progression from common law riparian rights to share-based entitlements that encourage sustainable water use; and the potential outcomes of the recent National Water Initiative, a wide-ranging strategy to improve water management and simultaneously maintain healthy groundwater and river systems.

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**From Routledge Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #10449227 in Books
- Published on: 2008-01-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .80" h x 6.30" w x 9.30" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 280 pages



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'The book shows...the complexity of water management and the diversity of issues associated with efficient and sustainable exploitation of water resources in Australia. In doing this, it provides a valuable introduction for anyone who is interested in a general discussion about the range of issues that are currently the focus of much policy debate.' Economic Record 'A valuable resource for any water professional struggling to get across the range of issues that are currently the focus of much debate and change.' Ecological Management and Restoration

#### **About the Author**

Lin Crase is an associate professor in the School of Business at La Trobe University, where he is also associate head for the Albury-Wodonga campus.

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