

Climate Change and Water

How Water Accounts can Help our Understanding

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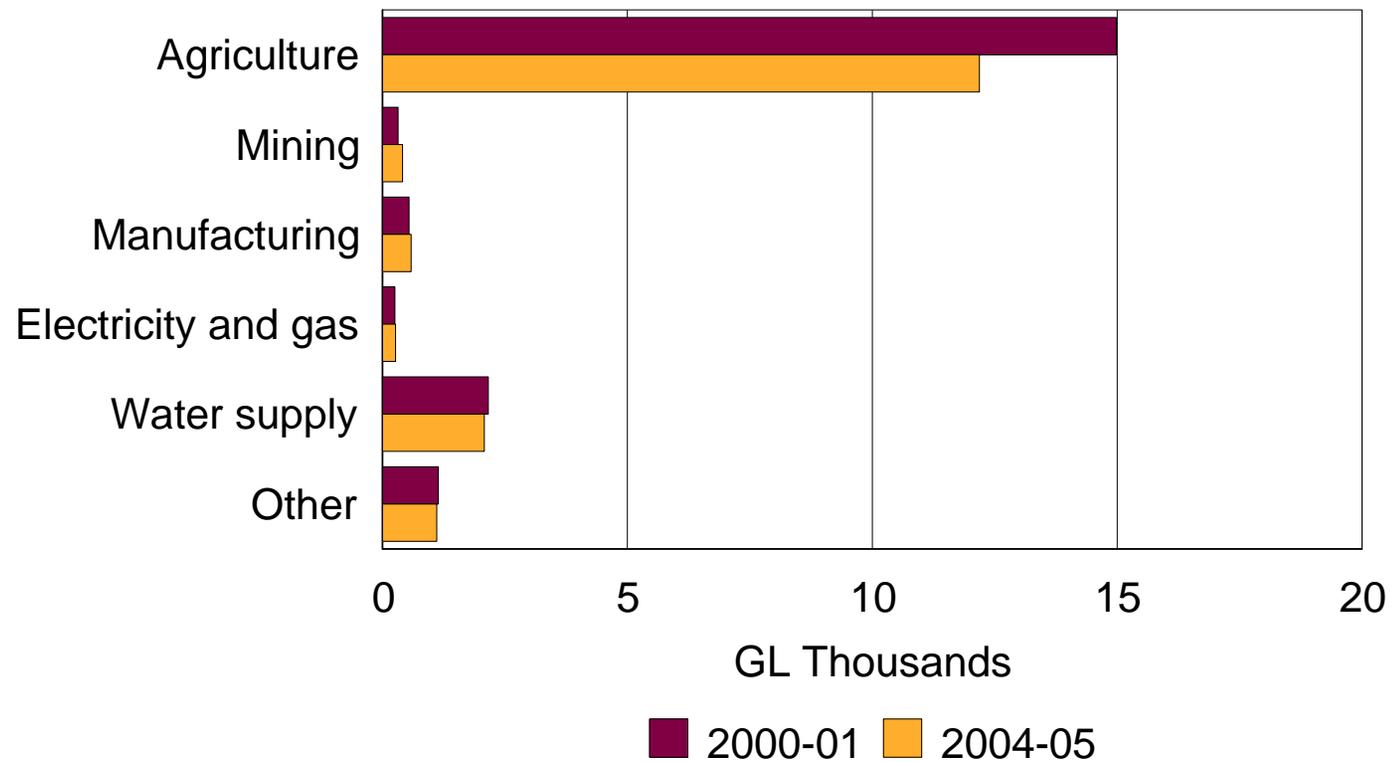
Session Outline

- Introduction
- Water use by industry
- Household water use
- Regional water accounts
- Monetary water accounts

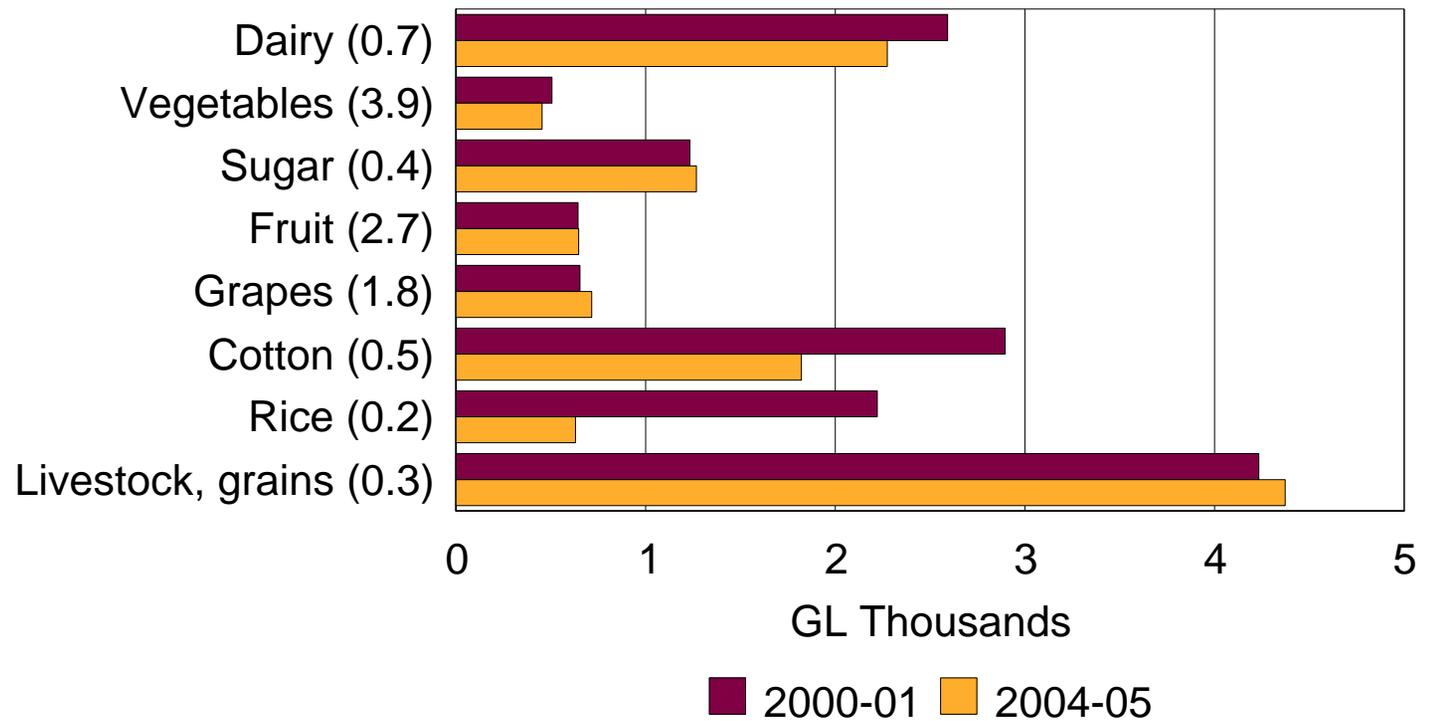
Introduction

- Australia has produced 3 sets of water accounts
 - Latest in respect of 2004-05 (released in November 2006)
 - Accompanied by experimental monetary account
 - Currently produced 4-yearly
 - Annual measures of agricultural water use
- Based on SEEWA
- Helps to analyse impact of climate change, which could impact on the abundance, distribution and availability of water across the continent

Water consumption by industry



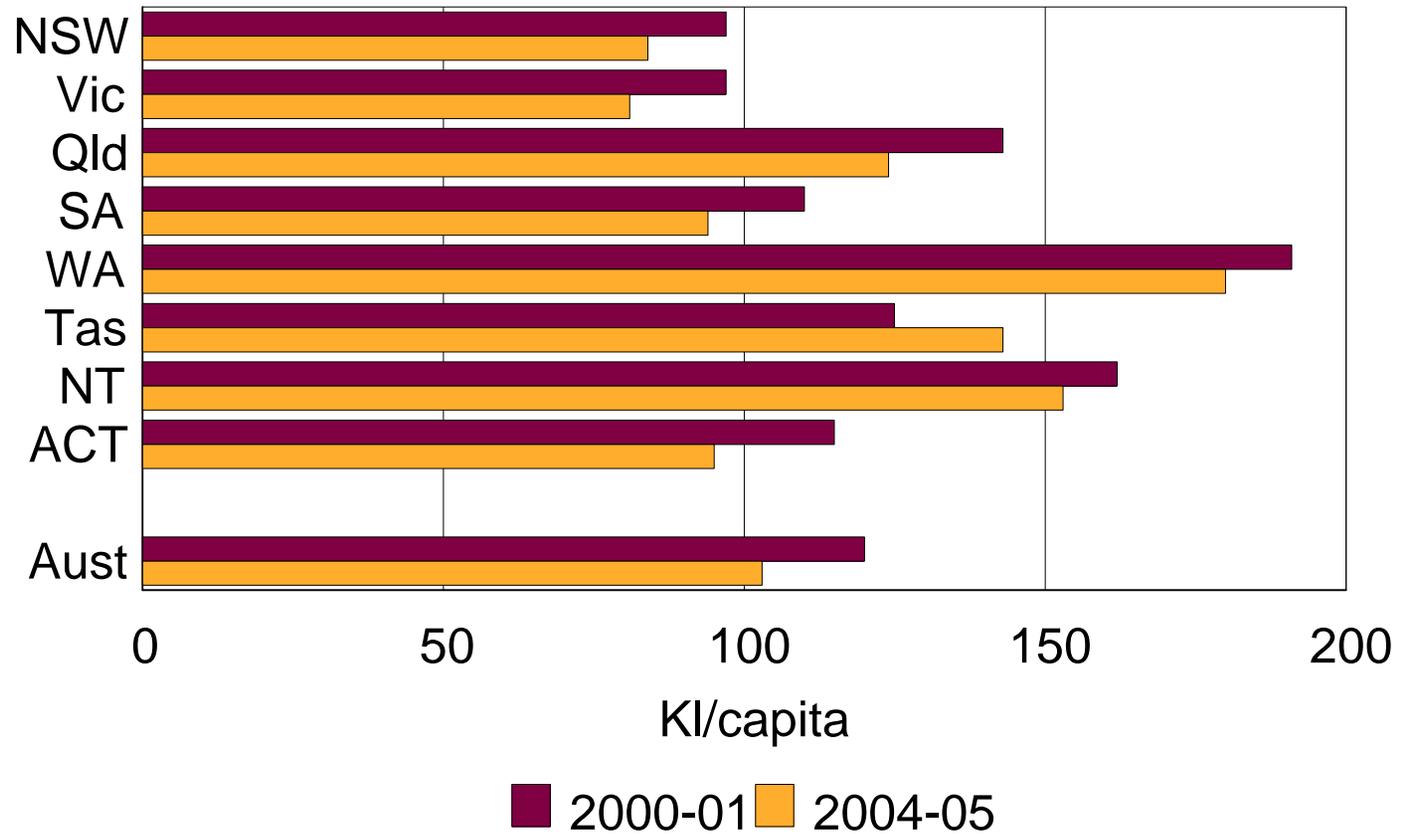
Agriculture



Other industries

- Mining
 - Mining boom → increased water usage
- Manufacturing
- Electricity and Gas
 - Hydro: water availability impacted by weather and climate
- Water supply
 - Distributed vs re-use

Households



Regional water accounts

- Climate change could have different impacts in different parts of Australia
- Also, some regions are more dependent on water than others
- Regional water accounts can help our understanding
- Flexible geographies are important
 - Geospatial presentations
- In Australia, the Murray-Darling Basin is particularly important
 - The ABS will shortly release a detailed study of this region

Monetary water accounts

- Combining physical information with relevant monetary information creates a powerful analytical tool
- Enhances understanding of the value of water and water-related assets
- Enables responses to changing water prices and trading policies to be studied
- Can help in understanding effectiveness of institutional arrangements
- Can help shed light on cost/benefit analysis of alternative water supplies if 'traditional' supplies are impacted by climate change