

The Water Act 2007 (“the Act”) does not require amendment because it:
gets the balance right between water to be retained in river systems as “environmental flows” and water extracted for irrigation and other purposes;
recognises that extraction levels must be reduced to ensure the sustainability of extraction in the long-term;
correctly gives priority to reducing water extraction and retaining water in river systems in order to for healthy ecosystems on which communities rely; and
requires decisions about sustainable water extraction levels to be based on the best available science. Any call to base decisions on a different ‘balance’ of social, environmental and environmental considerations will rely on politics and not science.

The balance of water use in the Basin has been heavily weighted towards extraction for irrigation for too long, leading to highly stressed river systems. The Act was introduced in order to address this imbalance and return water to the environment. Failure to ensure environmentally sustainable extraction levels will result in unsustainable extraction levels.

HEALTHY RIVERS EQUAL HEALTHY COMMUNITIES!