

**WATER USAGE IN AUSTRALIA**

Australia has a limited and dwindling supply of water reserves. Most parts of NSW have been in drought now for eight years.

The following table shows water usage in Australia in 2004.

Agriculture	70%
Domestic	12%
Industry	9%
Other (eg. evaporation, wastage etc.)	10%

[Source: ABC TV: Landline Program]

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2004, the Federal Government gave farmers legal title over water. Farmers can now buy and sell, loan against, and trade water as a commodity in the hope that it will be treated like the scarce resource it is, and thus be sustainably managed over time.