Inspire

THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

An estimated **884 MILLION PEOPLE** (10% of the world's population) are WITHOUT CLEAN WATER.

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH WATER FOR EVERYONE?

People use water for everything, from drinking and bathing to growing crops and generating electricity.

Fresh water sustains life and is vital for our health.

But as the Earth's population grows, so does the need for water.

Global water consumption has risen dramatically since the early 1900s and continues to grow rapidly as agricultural, industrial and household demand increases.

In Australia, many of us take for granted that we have clean, safe drinking water coming out of our taps and toilets that flush.

However, millions of people around the world get sick or die each year from drinking contaminated water.

According to the United Nations, water scarcity already affects more than 40 per cent of the global population and this is expected to rise.

Water scarcity is the imbalance between water availability and demand for fresh water, leading to water shortages. It is closely linked with poverty and with unclean water and lack of sanitation.

According to WaterAid, it is estimated that 884 million people around the world do not have access to clean water.

We can reverse the trend of growing water shortages. It is a challenging and ambitious task but achievable if we manage water well.

In towns and cities across Australia, water planners consider demand, supply and the way our water networks operate to make sure there is enough water for our communities – now and in the future.

WATER STRESS BY COUNTRY

THIS MAP is produced by the World Resources Institute and predicts the average exposure of water users in each country to water stress in the year 2040.

Water stress means the demand for water is greater than the amount of water available at a certain time and also when poor water quality restricts its usage.

In this map, a higher percentage means more water users will be competing for limited water supplies.

ASIA

Water will be an even bigger issue in the future for Asia. It is estimated that 14 of the 33 countries expected to suffer water shortages in 2040 are in the Middle East. Those particularly at risk include Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Israel. Extreme weather exacerbates the situation in this already dry region.

Rapidly developing China has repeatedly suffered water shortages for years. China's government is trying to supply the country's dry north with water by diverting rivers. Severe pollution of many water sources is also a serious problem.

OCEANIA

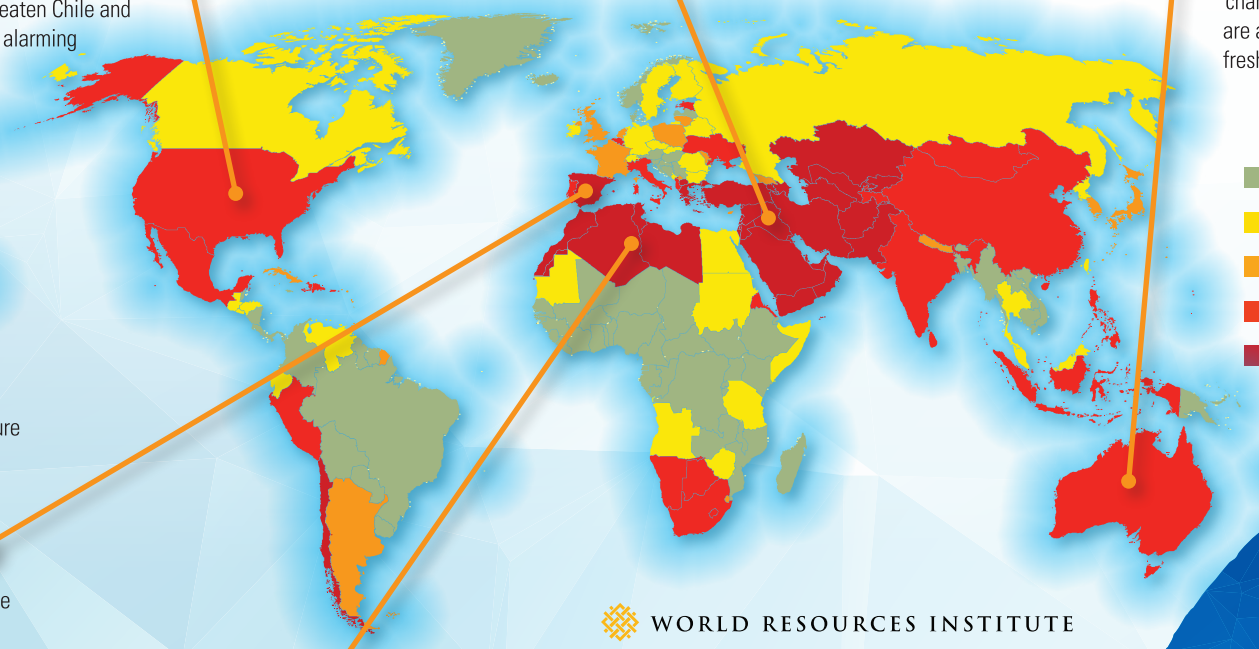
Drought is part of the Australian environment and affects more ecosystems than fire or flood. Australia is the driest inhabited continent and the climate generally varies across the country, as well as from year to year. Droughts can have a devastating effect on large areas of land and can destroy both agricultural and natural ecosystems.

Drinking water is also scarce on the many islands of Oceania as a result of climate change. Frequent floods on Tuvalu's islands are already contaminating available freshwater resources there.

THE AMERICAS

In the Americas, water shortages threaten Chile and Peru. The situation in Peru is already alarming because more and more people are coming into Lima, the world's driest capital city, in the hope of finding work. Many people on the edge of the desert city are not even connected to the main water network.

Water also threatens to become scarce in North America. In the US state of California for example, it has already become clear just how insecure access to sufficient water is.



- **Low** (<10%)
- **Low to medium** (10-20%)
- **Medium to high** (20-40%)
- **High** (40-80%)
- **Extremely high** (>80%)

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

EUROPE

In Europe, water could become scarce mainly in Spain and Greece.

Spain is one of Europe's driest countries. Desalination is intended to help solve the shortage of fresh water there.

In Greece, it's mainly the islands which are lacking in drinking water. Water will still have to be imported from the mainland during the summer months.

AFRICA

In Africa, water shortages threaten the north of the continent in particular. In Algeria, Morocco and Libya, more water will be needed in 2040 than is likely to be available.

Severe droughts occur repeatedly in Africa. Last year, 10 million people in Ethiopia were suffering the consequences of a lack of rainfall. South Africa is also affected by major drought.

289,000 CHILDREN UNDER FIVE DIE EVERY YEAR from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That's almost **800 CHILDREN A DAY**, or one child every two minutes.