

Water Security: balancing competing uses; competing needs

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Water and People

- **Water has many uses and many meanings – to sustain life, food production, industrial uses, cultural, environmental.**
- **Commodity or key enabler**
- **Not an isolated resource**

Water Conflicts

- **The intersection between rising demands fueled by:**
 - **Population growth**
 - **Consumer demand**
 - **Industrial growth**
 - **Agricultural demand**
 - **Environmental concerns**
- **Finite supply, and conflicting needs/demands of different users requires an active approach to managing water.**

Managing the Conversation

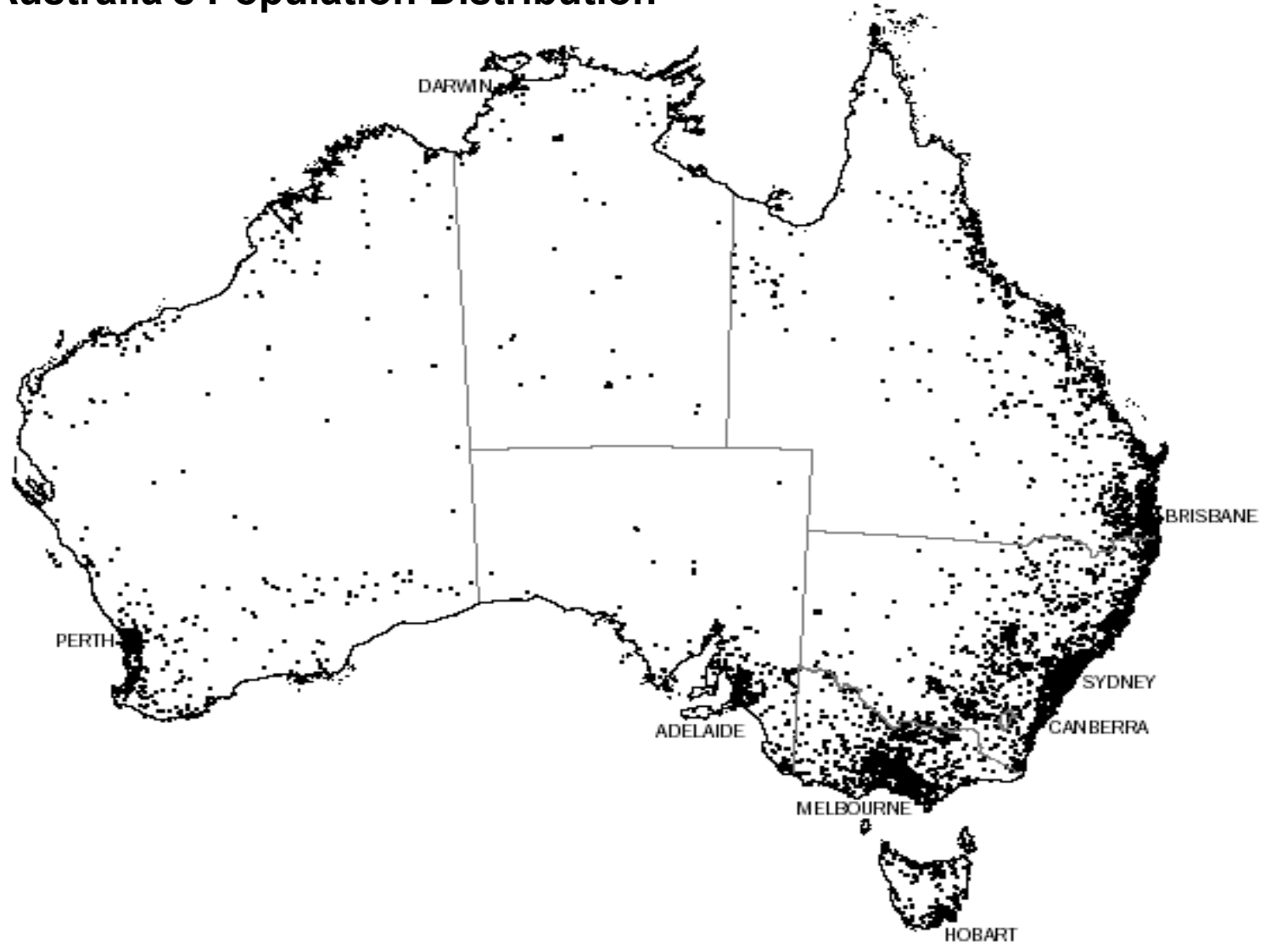
Water is a finite and vulnerable resource. It needs to be managed holistically.

This requires:

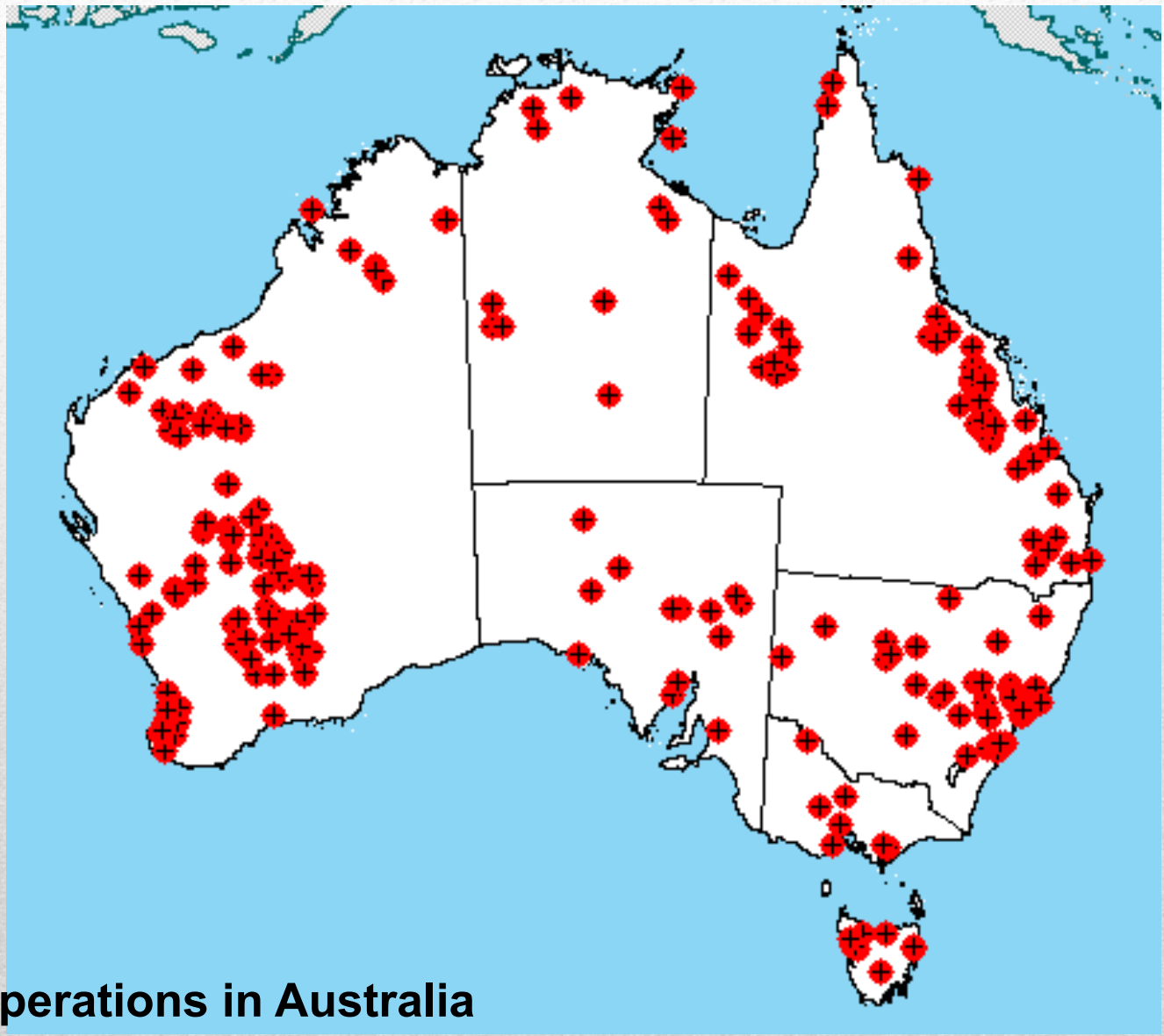
- **Enabling environment**
- **Cross sectoral linkages**
- **Good processes**
- **Participatory methods – including all players**
- **Appropriate institutions**
- **Resourcing**
- **Management tools**

The value of water as a concept differs greatly across different groups

Australia's Population Distribution



1dot = 500 Source ABS, 2001



Mining Operations in Australia

Indigenous Nations of Australia



Based on the Tindale Maps – SA Museum

Indigenous Water Rights

Australian governments have committed to:

- Indigenous access to water resources ensuring inclusion of Indigenous representation
- water plans incorporating Indigenous social, spiritual and customary objectives
- existence of native title rights to water in the catchment or aquifer area, including water allocation.

But

- There are no national guidelines to ensure this happens and Indigenous rights are rarely found in water plans

Government has a critical role to play

- **Setting robust regulatory framework**
- **Ensuring regulatory compliance**
- **Brokering competing interests**
- **Protecting human and environmental access to water**
- **Supporting economic development and growth**

Corporates must contribute to

- **building the capacity of community stakeholders to engage in solution building**

Researchers – have a role in

- **developing knowledge;**
- **effectively communicating in terms that can engage with community and their concerns**

Engagement and Shared Solutions

This needs:

- The process must be well planned and well resourced
- Skilled understanding and knowledge
- Professional methods
- Effective facilitation

To find paths for:

- Farmers and miners
- Community and industry
- Government and community
- NGOs and Corporates