Water institutional reforms in Australia
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With a brief description of the physical setting and institutional history of the Australian water sector, this paper reviews the water institutional reforms in Australia focusing especially on the nature and extent of reforms initiated since 1995 and provides a few case studies to highlight the issues and challenges in effecting changes in some key reform components. The reforms initiated in 1995 are notable for their comprehensiveness, fiscal incentives and clear and time-bound targets to be achieved. Although water institutions in Australia have undergone remarkable changes, thanks to the reforms, there are still issues and challenges inherent in reforming maturing water institutions. Regional diversity in legal systems and quality standards as well as conflicts between private interest and public welfare are still serious to constraining market-based water allocation and management. While Australia still needs further reforms, its recent reform experience provides considerable insights into the understanding of both the theory and the practice of water institutional reforms.
Water in Australia summarises the water situation across Australia for the previous financial year, in the context of climatic conditions. This report brings together and analyses information from a wide range of sources to paint a richer picture of changes in Australia’s water resources than is possible from observational data alone. We all value localised information, so the national-level Water in Australia is complemented by two online products - Australia has extensive water supplies, and their use is managed by various institutional arrangements. Water availability is being increased by using recycled and desalinated water. In Australia, this propertization of water has been coupled with legal recognition of the natural environment as a legitimate user of water and, very recently, substantial public investment in recovering water for the environment. The size (and potential fungibility) of environmental water portfolios created a need for an entity to manage this water. O’donnell: institutional reform and the Victorian environmental water holder: 22 Water Law 73. The journal of water law published by Lawtext publishing limited. www.lawtext.com. II Water resource management in Australia, the driest inhabited continent, 8. the challenge of Australian water reform. Governance reforms & institutional strengthening. Australian water reform. Managing demand & improving efficiency. Our partners. We partner with organisations in the water and development sectors from across Australia and the Indo-Pacific region. All Australian public and private organisations have the opportunity to join the partnership. Become an Australian Partner. Publications. The Australian Water Partnership is providing the international community with access to resources that describe how water is managed in Australia, and how arrangements have evolved.