Australian Water Law

Professor Douglas Fisher
Department of Law,
Queensland University of Technology

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International Structure

1. Concept of shared water resources
2. Principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation
3. Principle of no harm
4. Strategies to combat effects of drought
5. Emerging human right to water
Structure for Queensland

1. Overall strategies for sustainable management and efficient use
2. Planning for water resource allocation and use
3. Allocation of entitlements
4. Regulated use of entitlements including transfer
5. Emergency powers of regulation and intervention
6. Detailed water supply emergency regulations for SEQ
Structure of SEQ

1. Overall strategies for water supply and demand management
2. Planning for water security
3. Regional water security programs
4. System operating plans
5. Market arrangements in support of water security and market rules
6. Emergency powers of intervention
7. Detailed water emergency regulations
1. **Strategic outcomes** –
   a) Management of Basin water resources in national interest
   b) Optimisation of economic, social and environmental outcomes
   c) Return to environmentally sustainable levels of extraction
   d) Protect ecological values and ecosystem services
   e) Maximise net economic returns to Australian community
2. Murray-Darling Basin Plan

3. Water resource plans for particular areas within Basin

4. Duty to identify the risks to the continued availability of Basin water resources arising from the effects of climate change

5. Duty to specify the maximum long-term annual average quantities of water to be taken on a sustainable basis from the resources of the Basin and the areas