

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Enhancing Water Availability - Detailed

The Government of Alberta wants to understand your views on the water management system in Alberta.

The Government of Alberta wants to hear from Albertans on opportunities or barriers that can be addressed to enhance the water management system in Alberta and increase water availability for sustainable growth for all water using sectors. We want to hear from Albertans on how Alberta can best:

- increase water conservation, efficiency, and productivity;
- free up and optimize use of available water;
- better capture and improve access to existing water sources; and
- improve water management and make faster approval decisions.

This survey is intended for those who have more detailed knowledge of the water management system in Alberta, however all Albertans and Alberta organizations and communities are welcome to participate. Another more concise survey is available for those less familiar with the system. Both surveys are available through alberta.ca/water-availability-engagement.

Your input may help inform government programs, policy or tools to increase water availability and improve the water management system in Alberta.

The survey is separated into nine sections: one introductory section, seven topic-based sections, and one conclusion. Each section is expected to take 5-10 minutes.

Topics include:

- water measurement and reporting
- water conservation, efficiency and productivity
- water allocation and transfers
- use of rainwater
- alternative water sources and wastewater reuse
- inter-basin water transfers
- exemptions from water authorizations

A copy of the [survey questions can be downloaded here](#). We recommend you read through all of the questions before completing the survey.

The survey will take 45-90 minutes to complete and closes January 10, 2025.

FOIP Collection Notice

The views or opinions you provide, as well as the personal information about you, are protected by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. We are collecting this information to help inform decisions about water availability, as authorized by Section 33(c) of the *FOIP Act*. We will not use or disclose your personal information for any other purpose without your written consent or unless required to do so by law.

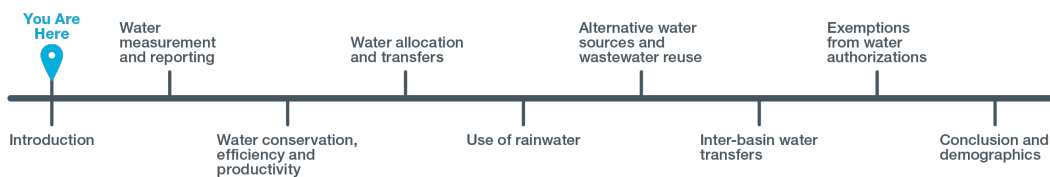
If you have questions about how we collect or use your information, contact Executive Director of Water Availability and Partnerships at 9820 106 St, Edmonton, by calling 780-903-3705 or emailing epa.water@gov.ab.ca.

Please do not submit responses that include personal information about other people.

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Introduction



Please specify your representation. Select all that apply.

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Municipality
- Non-governmental organization
- Tourism/recreation
- Irrigated agriculture
- Dryland agriculture
- Agri-processing
- Forestry
- Power generation
- Upstream oil and gas
- Downstream petroleum products
- Commercial
- Academic
- Technology
- Industry (other)
- First Nations community or organization
- I am answering as an individual
- Other (please specify)

If you are participating in this survey on behalf of an organization, please share the name of the organization:

What do you think should be the top priorities for the province when considering long term effectiveness of the water management system in increasing water availability? Select up to three.

(Choose any 3 options)

- Environmental protection: Prioritize the conservation of natural water bodies, ecosystems, and biodiversity.
- Conservation, efficiency, and productivity: Promote water-saving technologies, practices, and infrastructure to encourage reduced water use and increased water efficiency.
- Climate-related adaptation: Incorporate strategies for managing the impacts of water variability, such as droughts, floods, and changing precipitation patterns.

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- Water related data collection: Prioritize the collection of data and information to better understand how much and how water is being used by different licences in the province.
- Green infrastructure investment: Use natural processes to enhance water availability, such as conservation and restoration of wetlands, soil moisture retention and groundwater recharge.
- Grey infrastructure investment: Prioritize investments in resilient water infrastructure, such as treatment plants, distribution networks, and stormwater management systems.
- Water storage: Increase the capacity of existing storage or build new reservoirs.
- Water reuse: Enhance water and wastewater reuse, set standards and promote water cleaning technologies to allow for water to be re-used, and/or clarify use of rainwater and stormwater.
- Water licensing: Improve water transfers to accommodate need and demand. Update water allocation to accommodate need and demand.
- Other (please specify)

What do you think are the opportunities to manage water more effectively in Alberta? If possible, provide specific example(s).

What do you think is the biggest challenge or barrier?

What do you think is the biggest opportunity for improvement?

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Please expand on your answers and note any others you feel are missing from the list above. If possible, please provide specific example(s).

Which water management legislation, policies, programs, or approaches are working effectively? Which need to be strengthened?

Questions	1: Not effective	2: Neutral	3: Effective	I don't know
Water for Life				
Alberta Land Stewardship Act				
Water (Ministerial) Regulation				
Approved Water Management Plans				
Land-use plans				
Surface Water Allocation Directive				
Water Allocation Policy for Closed River Basins in the South Saskatchewan River Basin Directive				
Water Conservation Policy for Upstream Oil and Gas Operations				
Domestic Wastewater Guidelines for Industrial Operations				
Public Health Guidelines for Water Reuse and Stormwater Use				
Interim Guidance to Authorize Reuse of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater				
Alberta's Wetland Policy				
Potable Water Regulation				
Oldman River Basin Water Allocation Order				
Administrative guideline for transfer of water allocations				
Guide to compelling reasons to not take the 10% holdback for water transfers within the South Saskatchewan River Basin				
Guideline for preparing agricultural feasibility reports for private irrigation projects				
Guidelines for licensing water diversion projects: pursuant to the Water Act				

Please share any other comments on what you think should be the top priorities for the province when considering review of water management legislation, policies, programs, or approaches.

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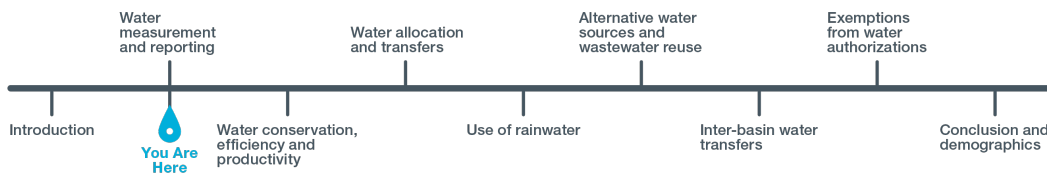
What challenges or barriers do you face within the current water management system in Alberta? If possible, please provide specific example(s).

The following sections of the survey explore specific challenges and opportunities that we have heard from stakeholders, as outlined in the infographic at the top of the page. You can answer questions in each of these sections or jump to the end of the survey to answer a few questions about demographics and add any other comments you have.

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Proceed to topic-specific sections of the survey
- Jump to demographics and final comments

Water measurement and reporting



Alberta takes a practical approach to water use reporting requirements. To minimize financial and time burden on Albertans, most licences (tens of thousands) are considered relatively small and therefore generally have not been required to report any information. The department has placed basic mandatory reporting conditions on most medium to large licences (several thousand licensees, which account for most of the water allocated in Alberta) – though some old licences have no requirements.

Water use reporting by licensees is varied and inconsistent.

Changes to the *Water Act* could help improve the consistency and timeliness of reporting, validation of data that is submitted, reporting compliance, transparency and access to reported water use data in a centralized platform that accommodates regular reporting.

Learn more from the [Water Measurement and Reporting issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding water measurement and reporting?

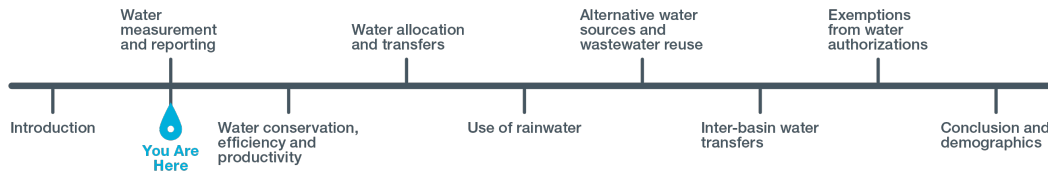
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No

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Water measurement and reporting



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Learn more from the [Water Measurement and Reporting issue sheet](#).

What publicly available data do you use to support your water management needs?

(Choose all that apply)

- Alberta Rivers Database (rivers.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Water Wells Database and Web Application (groundwater.alberta.ca)
- Groundwater Observation Well Network (GOWN - groundwatermonitoring.alberta.ca)
- Surface Water Quality Data Portal (environment.extranet.gov.ab.ca/apps/WaterQuality/dataportal/)
- Alberta Water Licence Viewer (avw.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Flow Estimation Tool for Ungauged Watersheds (AFETUW: afetuw.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Flood Awareness Map Application (floods.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Weather Station Data Viewer (acis.alberta.ca/weather-data-viewer.jsp)
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

What technology or innovation is available or emergent for more effective water use and management? This could be related to efficiency and productivity, infrastructure maintenance and longevity, measurement, forecasting, etc.

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Is the right information currently available to support your water management needs?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- No opinion

Answer this question only if you have chosen measurement and reporting requirements?

What other information could support your water management needs? If possible, provide specific example(s).

Are there any other benefits to consider regarding additional mandatory water use measurement and reporting requirements?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- No opinion

Please explain. If possible, provide specific examples.

How would you rate the following benefits to introducing mandatory requirements for water use measurement and reporting?

Questions	1: Not beneficial	2: Moderately beneficial	3: Very beneficial	I don't know
Promoting efficient water use by increasing awareness of consumption.				
Improving water management and planning (e.g., resource allocation, leak detection in water networks, slowing the need for expansion of infrastructure).				
Increased transparency in water use among water users and accountable governance				
Effective monitoring and evaluation of water conservation goals for various sectors/users.				
Promoting advancement of clean technology to enhance water use efficiency.				

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Are there incentives, supports, or regulatory requirements that would be needed to encourage water use measurement and reporting?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there incentives, supports, or regulatory requirements that would be needed to encourage water use measurement and reporting?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific examples.

Do you think the government should take steps to address the challenges of data collection, availability and usability?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- No opinion

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Do you think the government should take steps to address the challenges of data collection, availability and usability?

Please share any ideas you have for how the government could best address the challenges. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Are there other impacts or challenges to consider?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes

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- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there other impacts or challenges to consider?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific examples.

Water measurement and reporting continued

How would you rate the following challenges to introducing mandatory requirements for water use measurement and reporting?

Questions	1: Not challenging	2: Moderately challenging	3: Very challenging	I don't know
Lack of sufficient infrastructure to support water use measurement and reporting				
Lack of experience in data management, measurements, and reporting				
Cost of equipment implementation and maintenance				
Data transparency with public, and other regulators				
Concerns that reporting may lead to changes to historical water rights				

Do you think government should consider introducing standardized water use measurement and reporting requirements to additional water licences?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- No opinion

Are there any other priorities or phasing approaches to consider?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there any other priorities or phasing approaches to consider?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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If government were to introduce new measurement and reporting requirements, what criteria should be prioritized when phasing in potential changes? (1 being the highest priority).

(Rank each option)

- Volume of water use
- Type or purpose of water use
- Sector
- Frequency of use (i.e., permanent or temporary)
- Age of water licence
- Location (basin)

Please provide any conditional comments you have about water measurement and reporting.

Are there other ways that the government could address the challenges of data collection, availability, and usability outside of mandatory requirements?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

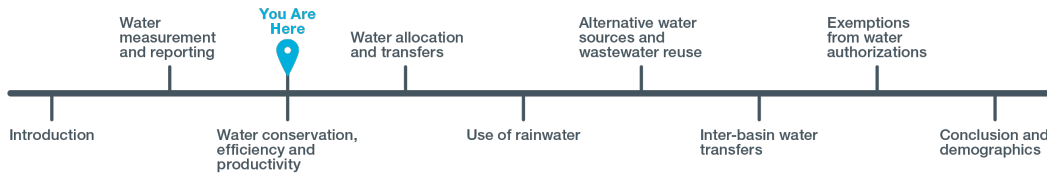
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Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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Water conservation, efficiency and productivity



Demand management through water conservation, water use efficiency, and productivity is one strategy that could be used to address water variability. Efficient water use can ensure users get the most out of every drop of water. Reducing demand can also delay or offset the need to build expensive water shortage infrastructure.

- Water conservation is any beneficial reduction in water use, loss, or waste
- Water efficiency is the accomplishment of a function, task, process, or result with the minimal amount of water feasible.
- Water productivity is the amount of water required to produce a unit of any good, service, or societal value.

There may be opportunities to further progress water conservation, efficiency and productivity improvements by considering ideas such as water measurement and reporting, volumetric water use pricing, and incentives to adopt water efficient technologies and behaviours and simplifying the allocation transfer system.

Learn more in the [Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding water conservation, efficiency and productivity?

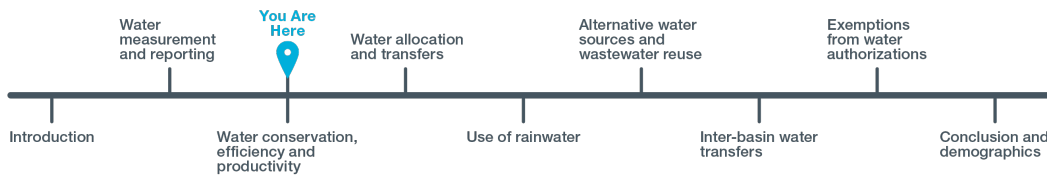
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Skip to conclusion and demographics

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Learn more in the [Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity issue sheet](#).

Which, if any, voluntary measures should Alberta consider to increase water conservation, efficiency and productivity? Select all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- Enhanced public education and awareness
- Incentivize water efficiency technologies
- Water conservation targets
- Water efficiency or productivity targets
- Water allocation trading
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Please expand on your above answers, including the pros and cons of such measures. If possible, please provide specific example(s).

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Which, if any, mandatory requirements should Alberta consider to increase water conservation, efficiency and productivity?

(Choose all that apply)

- Province wide water conservation targets
- Region-specific water conservation targets
- Sector-specific water conservation targets
- Water use objectives based on indoor, outdoor, commercial, industrial and institutional and water loss efficiency standards
- Sector or industry-specific water use efficiency or productivity objectives or standards
- Cross-sector water use efficiency or productivity objectives or standards
- Water audits
- Use of low-flow appliances and available water efficient technology
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Please expand on your answers, including the pros and cons of such measures. If possible, please provide specific example(s).

Which, if any, market-based mechanisms should Alberta consider to increase water conservation, efficiency and productivity?

(Choose all that apply)

- Volumetric water pricing
- Water trading and transfers (permanent)
- Water trading and transfers (temporary)
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Please expand on your answers, including the pros and cons of such measures. If possible, please provide specific example(s).

Which of the following best reflect your position on implementing conservation, efficiency, and productivity (CEP) improvements:

(Choose any one option)

- Government (through general revenue / taxpayers) should bear the cost of improvements.
- Water users should bear the cost of improvements.
- Government and water users should share the cost to improvements.
- Other (please specify)

Please expand on how the government should consider the costs associated with implementing water conserving technologies.

Are there technologies or innovations available or emergent for more effective water use and management - efficiency, productivity, infrastructure, etc.?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there technologies or innovations available or emergent for more effective water use and management - efficiency, productivity, infrastructure, etc.?

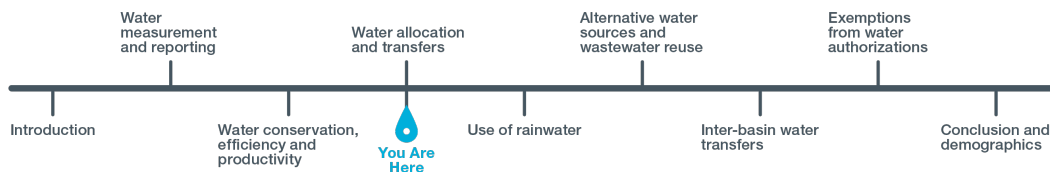
Please explain. If possible, provide specific examples.

Please provide any additional comments you have about water conservation, efficiency and productivity.

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Water allocations and transfers



Unless there is a specific exemption, anyone that wants to divert (use) surface or groundwater in Alberta requires a licence (allocation) under the *Water Act*. All water allocation and transfers are reviewed by the department to consider and mitigate impacts on other water users and the environment prior to approval.

Licences are issued with maximum quantity allowable, however the licensing process recognizes that for most licences, use will vary year to year. For example, allocations may not be used as much in wet years but are required in dry years.

In the Bow, Oldman and South Saskatchewan River sub-basins, new water allocations are not available and water must be found from an existing, willing licensee including negotiating any costs to acquire a licence, which can then be transferred to a new use.

Amendments to the *Water Act* and policy changes could help to address fairness and transparency of the existing licensing and transfer system to address system pressures.

Learn more about water allocations and transfers in the [Water Allocations and Transfers issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding water allocations and transfers?

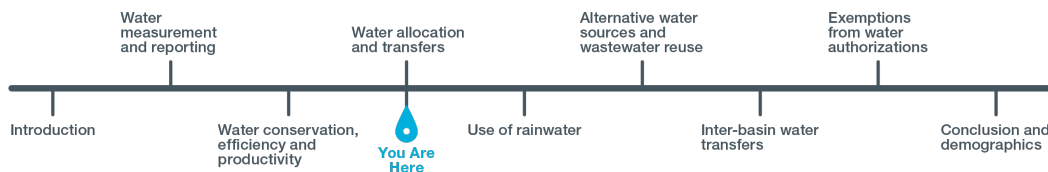
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Skip to conclusion and demographics

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Learn more about water allocations and transfers in the [Water Allocations and Transfers issue sheet](#).

Water allocations

A water allocation is the assignment of volume, rate, and timing of a diversion of water for a specified use. Water allocations are regulated under a licence through the *Water Act*.

Under what circumstance, if any, should the government be able to review and amend a water licence? Select all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- If the water licence holder cannot demonstrate why the water is needed.
- If the water licence holder cannot demonstrate how the water is being used.
- If water availability conditions have changed significantly.
- If policy direction has changed significantly.
- If the basin is closed (no further water to be allocated).
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Please provide additional context to your answers. If possible, please provide specific example(s).

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Water Transfer

A water transfer is the process by which a water licence holder transfers all or part of their water allocation to another user under a licence as regulated through the *Water Act*.

Do you support making water transfers more transparent?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

What, if any, cost or fee should apply to users who trade or transfer water? Select all that apply.

(Choose all that apply)

- Financial fee (to support the government's ability to better manage water for all Albertans)
- Water fee (to go back into the environment)
- None
- Other (please specify)

Please provide additional context. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Are there means to improve water allocation licencing and transfers?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there means to improve water allocation licencing and transfers?

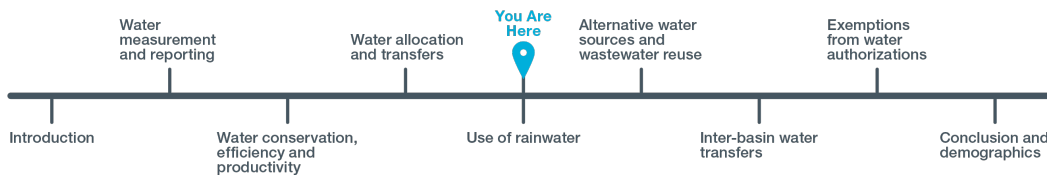
Please explain. Include the impacts and benefits to introducing authority to review allocations and transfers. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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Please provide any additional comments you have about water allocation and transfers.

Use of rainwater



In the water management system in Alberta, rainwater is rain or snow collected from a roof surface or intercepted by an engineered rainwater collection system. Compared to stormwater, rainwater is usually higher quality because it has not flowed over ground surfaces (e.g., parking lots or streets) and has not been in contact with potential sources of contamination (e.g., fertilizer, herbicide/pesticide, pet waste, oil, grease, anti-freeze).

The *Water Act* does not currently define rainwater or precipitation and therefore does not specify whether rainwater is included as water under the Act. Without clarity, it can be misinterpreted that any volume of rainwater could be collected (harvested), stored and used without a licence or any oversight.

If large volumes of rainwater are stored and used without a licence, local waterbodies and recognized water users (licensed, household or traditional agricultural) may be impacted from captured precipitation that reduces runoff. Without oversight, it is challenging to assess or mitigate potential impacts.

Learn more about defining rainwater in the [Use of Rainwater issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding rainwater?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Skip to conclusion and demographics

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Use of rainwater



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Learn more about defining rainwater in the [Use of Rainwater issue sheet](#).

Do you think rainwater should be defined in the *Water Act*?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Do you think rainwater should be defined in the *Water Act*?

How could rainwater be defined under the *Water Act*? If possible, provide specific examples.

Do you think a licence should be required for rainwater collection above a certain amount?

Note: residential rain barrels would not require a licence.

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Answer this question only if you have answered yes to Do you think a licence should be required for rainwater collection above a certain amount? Note: residential rain barrels would not require a licence.

What amount?

Aside from a small residential exemption for rainwater (rain barrels), should the government consider other potential exemptions for rainwater use?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

What exemptions should be considered?

Are there any other considerations that need to be taken into account if rainwater is defined in the *Water Act*?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there any other considerations that need to be taken into account if rainwater is defined in the *Water Act*?

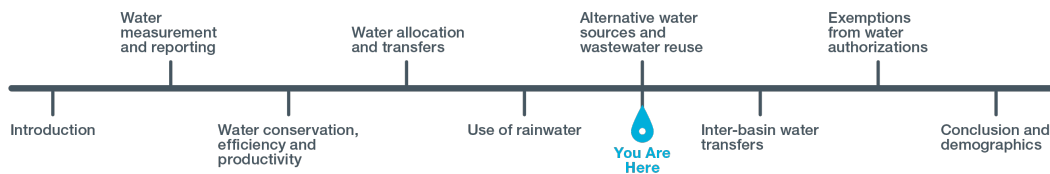
Please explain the other considerations. If possible, provided specific example(s).

Please provide any additional comments you have about defining rainwater.

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Alternative water sources and wastewater reuse



For most of Alberta's history, water supply and availability and the water licensing system were focused only on allocating the readily available, natural water sources in the environment such as rivers, creeks, lakes, groundwater aquifers, or wetlands. Alternative water sources also exist.

Most alternative water sources are water sources not supplied from fresh surface water or groundwater in the environment. Wastewater and stormwater form the majority of alternative water sources currently of most interest for use in Alberta. Other alternative sources include rainwater and greywater. The use of these sources can augment our existing water supplies while providing environmental and economic benefits.

Learn more in the [Alternative Water Sources and Wastewater Reuse issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding alternative water sources and wastewater reuse?

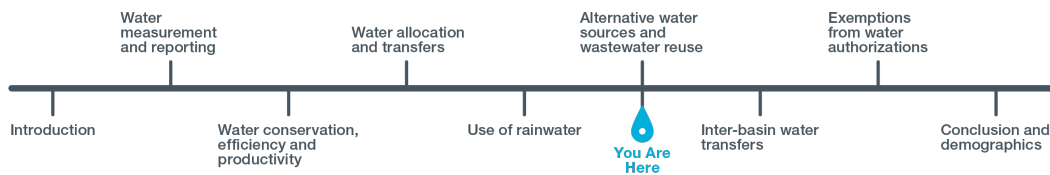
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Skip to conclusion and demographics

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Learn more in the [Alternative Water Sources and Wastewater Reuse issue sheet](#).

How would you rate the following benefits to alternative water sources and wastewater reuse?

Questions	1: Not beneficial	2: Moderately beneficial	3: Very beneficial	I don't know
Reduces the impact on the natural environment by offsetting diversions that would otherwise come from rivers, lakes, streams or aquifers				
Can create local alternative supply options and drought resiliency for some types of water users				
Reduces the need for larger infrastructure to transport water larger distances from the source to end-user				
Reduced treatment and transportation financial and energy costs				

Are there other benefits to consider?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there other benefits to consider?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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How would you rate the following challenges to alternative sources and wastewater reuse?

Questions	1: Not challenging	2: Moderately challenging	3: Very challenging	I don't know
Cost of setting up and maintaining the reuse system				
Regulatory requirements				
Lack of standards for the safe reuse of water and wastewater or quality requirements				
Health concerns over reusing water and wastewater indoors or outdoors				
Potential environmental impacts resulting from decreased return flows to the environment				
Potential impacts to downstream users due to reduced flow.				
Public perception and acceptance of the reuse of water or wastewater				

Are there other challenges to consider?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there other challenges to consider?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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Alternative water sources and wastewater reuse continued

Do you think that return flow should be recognized in water licences?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Do you think that return flow should be recognized in water licences?

What should be included? Is possible, provide specific example(s).

Answer this question only if you have chosen No for Do you think that return flow should be recognized in water licences?

Please explain why.

Are there technologies or innovations available or emergent to support alternative water use and wastewater reuse?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there technologies or innovations available or emergent to support alternative water use and wastewater reuse?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

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Please provide any additional comments you have about alternative water sources and wastewater reuse.

Are there operational limitations to enabling alternative water sources and wastewater reuse through the *Water Act*?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there operational limitations to enabling alternative water sources and wastewater reuse through the *Water Act*?

What are they? If possible, provide specific example(s).

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Do you have concerns regarding alternative water sources and wastewater reuse?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

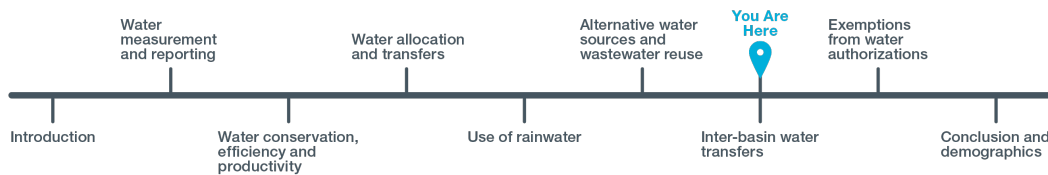
Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Do you have concerns regarding alternative water sources and wastewater reuse?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Inter-basin water transfers



Under Alberta's *Water Act*, an inter-basin transfer is a water licence that allows water from one major river basin to be used in another major river basin.

The *Water Act* does not prohibit inter-basin transfers, however it does require they be authorized by a special Act of the Legislature. Since 1999, six special Acts have been passed, all for regional pipelines carrying municipally treated drinking water.

The government could consider identifying criteria and thresholds for inter-basin transfers that pose a low risk to the environment and other users, where a special Act would not have to be passed by the Legislature to issue the licence.

Learn more about inter-basin transfers in the [Inter-basin Transfer issue sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding inter-basin transfers?

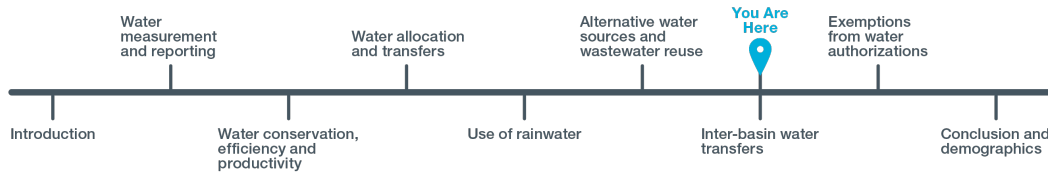
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- Skip to conclusion and demographics

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

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Learn more about inter-basin transfers in the [Inter-basin Transfer issue sheet](#).

Where and under which, if any, circumstances do you think an inter-basin transfer could be appropriate or necessary without a special Act of the Legislature?

(Choose all that apply)

- Drinking water for communities, such as regional water systems
- Where environmental impacts would be greater if sourcing water from the local basin
- Water for projects that straddle two major river basins
- Where volumes would have negligible environmental impact
- None of the above
- I don't know
- Other (please specify)

How would you rate the following potential benefits to inter-basin transfers?

Questions	1: Not beneficial	2: Moderately beneficial	3: Very beneficial	I don't know
More timely resolution to secure water access				
Effort and administrative requirements that are proportionate to the potential impact				
More flexibility for water management				

Are there other benefits to consider related to inter-basin transfers without a special Act of the Legislature?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Answer this question only if you answered yes to Are there other benefits to consider related to inter-basin transfers without a special Act of the Legislature?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Are there impacts or benefits of removing the requirements of the special Act of the Legislature for inter-basin transfers?

(Choose any one option)

- There are impacts
- There are benefits
- There are both impacts and benefits
- I don't know.

Please explain the impacts.

Answer this question only if you have chosen There are benefits for Are there impacts or benefits of removing the requirements of the special Act of the Legislature for inter-basin transfers?

Please explain the benefits.

Answer this question only if you have chosen There are both impacts and benefits for Are there impacts or benefits of removing the requirements of the special Act of the Legislature for inter-basin transfers?

Please explain the impacts and benefits.

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Could certain decisions be made by cabinet (or others)?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Could certain decisions be made by cabinet (or others)?

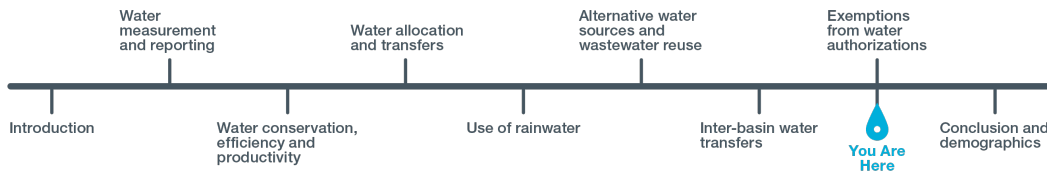
Please provide specific examples of who could make decisions, and in what circumstances.

Please provide any additional comments you have about inter-basin transfers.

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Exemptions from water authorizations



The Government of Alberta has established exemptions for certain types or categories of water activities and uses, which allows Albertans to use or impact water without having to apply for an authorization. Typically, these activities and uses are relatively small, considered low risk, and have minimal or manageable effects on other water users or the environment.

Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) could consider potential amendments to improve water accessibility and availability to certain sources of water and remove unnecessary regulatory burden for Albertans.

Many initial comments from Albertans were heard in 2024, as Alberta was preparing a coordinated drought response. Those ideas, plus others EPA identified based on the department's experience with certain applications, identified some possible changes.

Learn more in the [Exemptions from Water Authorizations issues sheet](#).

Do you want to answer questions regarding exemptions from water authorizations?

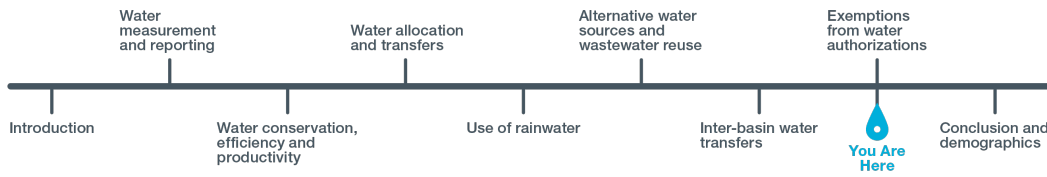
(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No - Skip to conclusion and demographics

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

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Learn more in the [Exemptions from Water Authorizations issues sheet](#).

Which, if any, of the following water use exemption amendments should be considered?

Questions	Yes	No	I don't know
Increase the approval exemption threshold for dugouts (currently 6,250 m3/year and maximum storage capacity of 12,000 m3 or less), to match the licence exemption threshold (12,000 m3/year)			
Increase the licence exemption threshold for dugouts to include potential for household use			
Increase the licence exemption threshold for stormwater use (currently 6,250 m3/year) to align with dugouts (12,000m3/year)			
Increase exemption thresholds for building wetland replacement projects (currently 6,250 m3/year and maximum storage capacity of 6,250 m3 or less) to align with dugouts and stormwater			
Double the exemption for small temporary camps from 1,250 m3 to 2,500 m3			

Are there any other circumstances where you think water authorization exemptions should be amended?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there any other circumstances where you think water authorization exemptions should be amended?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

Do you think the government should explore new exemption criteria for any of the following water uses:

Questions	Yes	No	I don't know
Bridge and sign washing			
Dust control			
Emergency preparedness (e.g., fire and spills prevention)			
Public borrow pits in the Green Area of Alberta			

Are there any other circumstances where you think new exemptions should be explored?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there any other circumstances where you think new exemptions should be explored?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Are there risks or concerns with exempting certain water diversions, either current or potential expanded exemptions?

(Choose any one option)

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there risks or concerns with exempting certain water diversions, either current or potential expanded exemptions?

What are they? If possible, provide specific example(s).

Please provide any additional comments you have about exemptions from water authorizations.

Conclusion and demographics

Are there any other opportunities to optimize water availability in Alberta?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Are there any other opportunities to optimize water availability in Alberta?

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Do you have any other additional concerns about water management in the province that you would like to share?*

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Yes
- No

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Do you have any other additional concerns about water management in the province that you would like to share?*

Please explain. If possible, provide specific example(s).

Is there anything else you would like to add?

(Choose any one option)

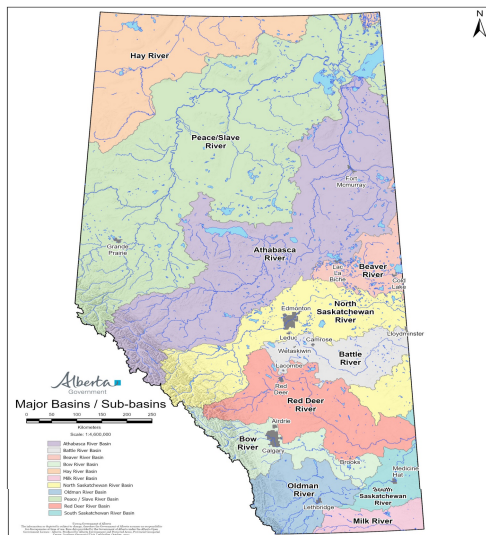
- Yes
- No

Answer this question only if you have chosen Yes for Is there anything else you would like to add?

Please explain.

Please tell us about yourself

Which basin(s) does your organization operate in?



Water Availability

Alberta Online Engagement

(Choose all that apply) (Required)

- Hay River Basin
- Peace/Slave River Basin
- Athabasca River Basin
- Beaver River Basin
- North Saskatchewan River Basin
- Battle River Basin
- Red Deer River Basin
- Bow River Basin
- Oldman River Basin
- South Saskatchewan River Basin
- Milk River Basin
- I don't know
- None of the above

What are the first three characters of your postal code? (e.g. T5K)

(Required)

How was your experience sharing your feedback today?

(Choose any one option) (Required)

- Poor
- Acceptable
- Good

Answer this question only if you have chosen Poor for How was your experience sharing your feedback today?

Why was your experience poor?

Answer this question only if you have chosen Acceptable for How was your experience sharing your feedback today?

Why was your experience acceptable?

Answer this question only if you have chosen Good for How was your experience sharing your feedback today?

Why was your experience good?