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INSTITUTE FOR LAND, WATER AND SOCIETY

The Institute for Land, Water and Society is an accredited Centre of Research Excellence within Charles Sturt University, Australia's national university of inland Australia. A leading research institute, it comprises 222 social, economic and environmental scientists who are making important contributions to regional sustainability.

Our Aim "to undertake internationally recognised and integrated research in social and environmental sustainability to enhance the livelihoods and lifestyles of people in rural and regional areas."

Investing in Ecosystem Services Vital to Improving Food Security

A major global report co-authored by the Institute's Director highlights healthy ecosystems as the basis for sustainable water resources and stable food security for people around the world, including Australia.

"Healthy ecosystems help produce more food per hectare of agricultural land, are more resilient to climate change and produce more economic benefits for poor communities," says Professor Max Finlayson.



The report, [An Ecosystems Approach to Water and Food Security](#), which was launched on Tuesday by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and **International Water Management Institute** and 19 collaborating institutions, including ILWS, during World Water Week, August 21 - 27 in Sweden .

"How we manage and invest in the connections between ecosystems, water and food could help us avoid water scarcity and meet the growing food demands of a global population tipped to reach nine billion by 2050," Professor Finlayson said.

"Diversifying our crops, planting trees on farms and improving rainwater collection are important practical steps we can take to improve these connections."

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WHAT'S NEW

The August edition of [Connections](#) includes updates from each of the Institute's Strategic Research Areas. As well there is a feature story on the Sustainable business development in regional Australia SRA, a profile piece on Dr Glen Duncan, details of research being undertaken by our postgraduates and more...

The US debt crisis and its impact on Australia
The international impacts of the United States debt crisis are likely to be serious given the size of the US economy and its accumulated debt level. Other countries, including Australia, would need to expand their economies in an effort to offset the consequences of the US economy's decline, according to ILWS economics experts. [Read More](#)

Time to put need before greed in Australia
Australia must reduce its carbon pollution emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 if it is to help the globe avoid catastrophic climate change, according to ILWS climate policy expert Professor Kevin Parton. [Read More](#)

WHAT'S ON

> [Events hosted by ILWS in 2011](#)