



WHITE PAPER

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY WHITE PAPER

Water Tank Manufacturing - An Essential Industry

Australia has been faced with several challenges recently, all of which have been on an unprecedented scale: a pro-longed and severe drought and bushfires. The recent and ongoing challenge, COVIDA-19, is both a health and economic crisis unfolding.

One thing these challenges have in common is the acute and ongoing need to access and store water. This apply to all sectors and industries, not the least the agricultural sector and for bushfire preparedness and fire mitigation.

This white paper is presenting the argument that water tanks are an essential product, based on research and observations by the water tank industry. The paper offers a detailed account of the many industries, particularly the agricultural sector that rely on the accessibility of water and storage tanks. Furthermore, the paper outlines the need for water tanks and water security by the 767, 000, or more than 5% of Australian population, that do not have access to mains water but rely on tank water for domestic activities, including sanitation. The need for water tanks for bushfire preparedness and mitigation is also forwarded.

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Water Tank Manufacturing - An Essential Industry

Industry Overview

Water and industrial tanks manufactured in Australia are essential to mitigate the serious water security issues faced by a continent with such extreme and diverse water storage requirements.

Water tanks are supplied into a broad range of industries across all states and territories.

These include:

- agriculture and farming
- bushfire preparedness and mitigation
- household water supply for cooking and cleaning
- storage of water for household and sanitation use
- mining and resources
- public and private gardens
- mining and resources
- water treatment
- industrial chemical storage

Water tank manufacturing in Australia – An Essential Industry

Water tank manufacturing in Australia is an essential industry - particularly after our recent years of drought, bushfire, and loss of water supply to remote, rural and regional communities

- Agriculture and farming
 - stock water, use on production such as flood-wash tanks in dairies, storage of chemicals for spraying, liquid fertiliser storage and a broad range of other uses
- Manufacturing
 - water storage, storage of bulk chemicals, other liquid storage in food production.
- Water treatment
 - storage of raw and treated water, bulk chemical storage and tanks incorporated into the treatment process
- Households and facilities without mains water
 - **only** source of water these communities have access to is water stored in their tanks - rainwater or bore water
 - **767,000 Australian households** rely on rainwater tanks as their main source of water. See Table 1.
- Bushfire preparedness/mitigation for 2020/21
 - If nothing else demonstrates the critical need to store water when and if it falls within Australian states, it is the past bushfire season



COVID-19 – a major health and economic crisis. Outlined are indisputable facts for the argument that ongoing manufacturing and delivery of tanks is an essential service.

We understand that the current situation with COVID-19 is a major health and economic crisis. Outlined are indisputable facts that state that, for Australia, the ongoing manufacturing and delivery of water tanks is an essential service for singular water supply for sanitation in remote and drought stricken communities, food and fibre production in agriculture, and continued drought and future bushfire season mitigation.

AGRICULTURE + DROUGHT:

The expectation is that for the continuous supply of food, it is essential that the suppliers, and the suppliers to the suppliers, continue to operate. In the water tank industry's case, we supply tanks into the agricultural sector which is producing the meat, fruit and vegetables that will end up on retailers' shelves. This is especially the case in areas that are still in drought. Additional tanks are required to keep production going.

BUSHFIRE RAVAGED AREAS AND PREPARATION FOR 2020/21:

Following the recent fires across eastern Australia, manufacturers are still delivering replacement tanks into fire-affected areas, some of whom are still short of water. There also remains a backlog of tanks going into drought-affected areas.

As part the Australian water tank manufacturing industry, we believe that the water tank product should continue to be made and delivered to our rural or regional areas and farming customers.

We think that water tanks, and other products going into the farming sector, present an important case to enable farmers to continue to produce, unburdened by a lack of supplies or equipment to do it efficiently.

About Bushmans Group

Bushmans Group is one of Australia's leading water tank manufacturers. A family-owned company, we employ 100+ staff, and supply and deliver tanks across central and eastern



Australia from five manufacturing plants in Orange - NSW, Innisfail – North QLD, Dalby – Sth QLD, Terang - VIC and Cavan - SA.

Chris Glenn – Managing Director of Bushmans has written this paper and is also a board member of the Australian Rotomoulders Association, the peak body representing the poly tank manufacturing industry. He is able to speak on the industries behalf.

Chris and Bushmans are happy to discuss this issue at any time with decision makers or advisors.

Table 1 – Rainwater Tanks as Main Source of Drinking Water	
<i>State</i>	<i>Number of Households</i>
QLD	234,000
NSW	177,000
VIC	178,000
SA	108,000
WA	43,000
NT	
Tas	22,000
Total Australia	767,000

*Source - ABS Environmental Issues Water Use and Conservation Survey 2013-14 ABS 4602055003D0001_201303 Table 3 Main Source of Water for Drinking