

The Water Cycle

Water is important to keep livestock and crops alive so farmers can produce the food and fibre for our communities.

The Earth has a limited amount of water. That water keeps going around and around in what we call the 'Water Cycle'. There are four main phases to the water cycle:

NSW Stage 1	NSW Stage 2
ST1-5LW-T	ST2-5LW-T

- **Evaporation:** Heat from the sun causes water in oceans, lakes and dams to evaporate (turn from liquid into gas) and rise into the sky. This water vapor collects in the sky in the form of clouds.
- **Condensation:** As water vapor in the clouds cools down it becomes water again, this process is called condensation.
- **Precipitation:** Water falls from the sky in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet, this process is called precipitation.
- **Collection:** Oceans, lakes and dams collect water that has fallen. Water evaporates into the sky again and the cycle continues.

Label the water cycle diagram with each of the phases.

