



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW BUDGET 08

13 May, 2008

\$254.8 MILLION IN WATER SECURITY FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

The Rudd Government will invest \$254.8 million to increase the security of water supplies in cities and towns as part of its \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan.

“The effects of climate change mean that most of Australia’s towns and cities are facing a future with less water,” Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said.

“The *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns* will help communities improve water efficiency and develop new sources of water.

“The plan is designed to help smaller communities make their existing water infrastructure more efficient or find new sources of water supply.

“The Government will also work with local water authorities to minimise the loss of valuable water resources by providing funding for practical projects that save water.”

Senator Wong said the Government would provide the funding over five years for projects including upgrades to treatment plants and infrastructure, stormwater re-use, and providing recycled water for use on sporting fields and community recreation areas.

Senator Wong said the plan would be funded in two stages. In the first stage, the Government will commit \$104.5 million to 20 projects outlined in Labor’s 2007 election commitments. A list of projects is attached.

Details of the second stage of funding will be developed in consultation with the states and territories through the Council of Australian Governments.

The plan will also provide \$8.8 million for the three-year *Green Precincts Fund*, with the balance of the Fund’s \$15 million being separately allocated from the Budget.

The *Green Precincts Fund* will support at least 10 high-profile demonstration projects that deliver water and energy savings while educating the community about water and energy efficiency. Potential sites include major public libraries and heritage-listed community buildings.

The first project to receive funding is the Essendon Football Club in Melbourne which will receive up to \$1 million towards solar power generation and hot water services, energy efficiency measures, rainwater harvesting and other measures to reduce consumption of mains drinking water.

“Through the *Green Precincts Fund* the Australian Government will work with the community to demonstrate the benefits of water and energy efficiency and using renewable energy,” Senator Wong said.

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National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns - Election Commitment Projects

001	Four storm water capture projects in partnership with Salisbury Council. These projects will save 6.3 billion litres of water per year, the equivalent of the water used by over 2,200 Adelaide homes.	6.55
002	The Huon Valley water scheme in Tasmania, providing treated water and securing 200 jobs in the aquaculture industry.	12.00
003	South East Tasmania project to significantly reduce the effluent discharges into the Derwent Estuary through the development of an integrated recycling and irrigation system.	10.50
004	Piping recycled water from Penrith Sewerage Treatment Plant to 15 local sporting fields and businesses in Western Sydney.	2.70
005	Upgrade the sewerage system in Braidwood, NSW.	3.30
006	Manage storm water, reduce river pollution and improve water quality in the Cooks River.	2.00
007	Provide Lithgow Golf Club with recycled water from the Lithgow sewage treatment plant.	0.35
008	A water treatment plant for Bellbrook on the NSW North Coast.	0.70
009	A water re-use project in the McLaren Vale saving 500 million litres per year.	3.50
010	A new recycled water plant to serve the Victorian coastal growth corridor of Torquay, Armstrong Creek and surrounding areas.	10.00
011	City of Casey (Melbourne) project to develop a 'state-of-the-art' water smart pool in Cranbourne which will be filled mainly using rainwater.	5.00
012	Contribution to the "Saving Hyde Park" project in Perth.	2.00
013	Contribution to the Urban Waterways Renewal project in the Canning and Southern River area.	4.00
014	Contribution to a desalination plant at Wellington Dam south of Perth.	10.00
015	Support for Stage 2 of the Kwinana Water Reclamation Plant.	5.00
016	Contribution to the Rockhampton to Gladstone pipeline to secure water supplies for Gladstone.	20.00
017	Water Reuse System at Croydon Leisure Centre	0.60
018	Securing Water for the Australian National Botanic Gardens	1.50
019	Sunshine Coast Growth Corridor - Coolum Ridges water recycling demonstration project	4.60
020	Contribution to the first stage of a water management plan for the Peel Harvey Catchment Council	0.20
	Total	104.5