



# Media Release

**The Hon Greg Hunt MP**

**Shadow Minister for Climate Change,  
Environment and Water**

Friday, 24 July 2009

## **Disgraceful Results of Government Water Inaction**

Senator Wong today could issue nothing but weak excuses for the Rudd Government's disgraceful lack of action in rolling out water saving infrastructure.

Her statement was unable to point to a single project which she had managed to get off the ground.

Let's remember this: The Coalition put nearly \$6 billion in the bank for water infrastructure in the Murray-Darling system.

After nearly two years in office the Rudd Government has basically nothing to show for water infrastructure along the Murray-Darling.

They have simply been unable to deliver any concrete projects with the States. We now see her desperately pleading with the States to come up with some projects before the election.

Senator Wong continues with her obsession of buying out farmers and farming communities.

The Minister today was trying to boast about water buy-backs that largely deliver phantom water.

But most of the water licences have been for general of low security water. That means the river system won't gain any real benefit unless there is a belter of rain season - and Senator Wong is not predicting that.

Senator Wong's statement today had an air of desperation about it. She's making excuses for failing to deliver water infrastructure and real water while left resorting to fudging water savings from buy-backs.

The Minister also disingenuously distorted the numbers relating to buy-backs in NSW and Victoria.

Senator Wong said 55 per cent of entitlements purchased so far had been from Victoria and 45 per cent from NSW – assuming you left out the massive 240 billion litre buy-out of Twynam in NSW.

Why skew the figures by taking out the single biggest purchase? It's a bad look from someone struggling to build credibility on delivering real water savings for the Murray system.