



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

244/09

18 August 2009

\$20 MILLION TO BOOST WATER INFORMATION

More than 100 new projects will share in \$20 million to improve the collection, management and sharing of water information across Australia, Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said today.

“As we tackle climate change and deal with the effects of drought, the availability of robust and reliable information about our water supplies is hugely important,” Senator Wong said.

“The \$20 million announced today will support some 115 new projects to modernise and extend water information networks and systems in both urban and rural areas.”

This \$20 million is the third round of funding under the \$80 million, five-year *Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems* Program administered by the Bureau of Meteorology.

“This new funding builds on the many successful projects funded to date, which range from updating monitoring equipment to providing new ways of assessing water availability,” Senator Wong said.

“Over the life of this program, we will continue to work with States and Territories towards better measurement of our precious water resources, and more accessible information on water availability.”

Examples of projects funded in this round include:

- Improved monitoring of groundwater levels in remote indigenous communities in the Northern Territory (\$285,000);
- Upgrade to the monitoring of flows in and out of the Menindee Lakes in New South Wales (\$152,000);
- Installing an automatic monitoring system for groundwater levels and quality in Tasmania (\$400,000);
- Building a new system to record water licences in Western Australia (\$100,000);
- Extending rainfall and streamflow measurement systems to better understand water security for irrigated areas in Queensland (\$120,000); and
- Improving estimation of flow volumes going down rivers in flood in Victoria (\$400,000).

A full list of projects is attached to this press release.

Under the Commonwealth *Water Act 2007*, the Bureau of Meteorology has the responsibility to collate and analyse water data from across the country, to conduct national water resource assessments, and to prepare annual water accounts for the nation.

The Bureau is working to make water information available on the web as well as establishing a new water availability forecasting service to complement its current national role in flood warning and forecasting. More information is available at www.bom.gov.au/water.

ROUND 3 FUNDING DETAILS		
Media contact for extra information on specific projects: Rob Morton (Bureau of Meteorology) 0417 508 051		
ACT		
Department of Climate Change, Environment, Water and Energy	Improved streamflow measurements	\$168,000
New South Wales		
Department of Water and Energy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrade Water Quality and Groundwater Data Management 2. Recovery Data of Historic Importance currently in hardcopy format only 3. Linkage of key monitoring sites to a consistent level datum 4. Resourcing for Water Accounting Activities 5. Upgrade of monitoring equipment at Menindee Lakes. 6. Development of Water Information Collection Standards 7. Enhancement of NSW Water Supply and Sewerage reporting procedures 8. Strategic Water Information Coordination. 9. Enhancement of NSW Groundwater Modelling 10. Modernisation of DWE's Hydrometric Monitoring Network 11. Surface Water Data Management System Enhancements 12. Groundwater Bore Rehabilitation program 13. Audit of NSW Water Licensing and Supply Arrangements 	\$3,822,676
State Water Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of Web Tools for streamlined data ingestion 2. Installation of Meteorological Monitoring sites at Key Reservoirs 3. Upgrade on Storage level recorders at Key Reservoirs. 4. Accurate Bathymetric (Storage-Capacity) Surveys at Key Reservoirs 5. Installation of pressure measurements systems to improve flow monitoring 	\$1,134,800
Department of Environment and Climate Change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data management System Upgrades 2. Enhancement of real-time data access systems 	\$481,120
Sydney Water Corporation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Streamlining of water consumption access and transfer procedures 2. Improved data ingestion procedures 	\$185,000
Department of Primary Industries	Improved water balances for forested catchments	\$41,100
Hunter Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$93,000
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$140,000
Country Water	Enhance Data Management Systems	\$70,000
Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced real-time data access 2. Recovery of historic strategic data currently only in hardcopy format 	\$125,183
Shoalhaven City Council	Enhancement of monitoring networks	\$19,000
Cabonne Council	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$9,960

Northern Territory		
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Linkage of key monitoring sites to a consistent level datum	\$267,000
Power and Water Corporation	1. Enhancement and extension of remote indigenous community water supply monitoring 2. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$320,000
Queensland		
Department of Environment and Resources Management	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Linkage of key monitoring sites to a consistent level datum 3. Development of Water Quality Information Collection Standards 4. Groundwater Modelling and Display enhancements 5. Resourcing for Water Accounting Activities	\$1,060,160
SunWater	1. Improved rainfall and streamflow monitoring 2. Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$556,875
SEQ Water	1. Accurate Bathymetric (Storage-Capacity) Surveys at Key Reservoirs 2. Improved rainfall and streamflow monitoring 3. Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$443,500
SEQ Catchments	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures on behalf of a significant number of organisations required to provide data to the Bureau under the Water Regulations 2008	\$1,244,625
Fraser Coast Regional Council	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$151,686
Queensland Water Commission	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$393,800
Gladstone Area Water Board	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$45,000
Burdekin Shire Council	Enhanced redundancy to water monitoring networks	\$7,000
South Australia		
Department of Water, Land, Biodiversity Conservation	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Groundwater Modelling and Display enhancements 3. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures 4. Modernisation of SA Water Monitoring networks 5. Resourcing for Water Accounting Activities 6. Service orientated improvements to Water Data Management in SA	\$2,763,000
SA Water Corporation	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$175,700
South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$127,458
Environment Protection Authority	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$35,000
City of Salisbury	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$70,000
SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$21,000
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$56,000

Tasmania		
Department of Primary Industries and Water	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures 3. Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$879,900
Hydro Tasmania	1. Improved Quality Control and Assurance procedures for Water Information 2. Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$431,670
Hobart Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$390,367
Tasmanian Irrigation Schemes	Upgrade of Storage level recording at a Key Reservoir	\$25,000
Victoria		
Department of Sustainability and the Environment	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Recovery of historic strategic data currently only in hardcopy format 3. Resourcing for Water Accounting Activities 4. Improved streamflow measurement (Acoustic Doppler Units) 5. Provision of real-time data access to key groundwater monitoring sites	\$1,479,000
Central Highlands Water	1. Accurate Bathymetric (Storage-Capacity) Surveys at Key Reservoirs 2. Enhanced monitoring coverage 3. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$172,850
Melbourne Water	1. Improved streamflow measurement (Acoustic Doppler Units) 2. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$194,625
Coliban Water	Enhanced monitoring coverage	\$120,000
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$119,200
Southern Rural Water	1. Enhanced monitoring coverage 2. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$147,760
North East Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$100,344
Goulburn Valley Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$86,720
Western Water	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$55,000
Western Australia		
Department of Water	1. Strategic Water Information Coordination 2. Linkage of key monitoring sites to a consistent level datum 3. Resourcing for Water Accounting Activities 4. Enhanced monitoring coverage 5. Improved streamflow measurement (Acoustic Doppler Units and Spatial Data Capture) 6. Enhanced Data Management and Transfer procedures 7. Assistance to Groundwater Monitoring Assessment Activities	\$1,280,331
WA Water Corporation	1. Improved Quality Control and Assurance procedures for Water Information 2. Studies to determine key real-time access options	\$162,000
Department of Environment and Conservation	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$208,000
Department of Agriculture and Food Products	Enhanced Data Management and Transfer Procedures	\$75,000

