



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 269/09

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FURTHER CONSULTATION ON ACCREDITATION UNDER WATER CHARGE RULES

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today announced that she has asked the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to provide further advice on rules for accreditation as part of the water infrastructure charge rules.

The Minister publicly released the ACCC's advice, including draft rules, on the water infrastructure charge rules in July. The ACCC recommends that a single regulator (the ACCC) undertake all price determinations across the Basin under the water charge rules.

“Some stakeholders have indicated that they would like the opportunity to have state regulators accredited to carry out determinations under the water charge rules,” Senator Wong said.

“In response to these concerns, I have decided to ask the ACCC to consult and provide further advice on rules that provide for accreditation. Any accreditation model will need to achieve the Basin water charging objectives and principles of the *Water Act 2007*.

“The ACCC's consultation process will be critical in delivering the future water charging arrangements across the Basin and I strongly urge all stakeholders to participate.

“I will make my decision on the water infrastructure charge rules, including accreditation arrangements, once I receive further advice from the ACCC.”

Senator Wong has asked the ACCC to provide further advice by February 2010.

More information about the water charge rules can be found on the ACCC website:
www.accc.gov.au.