



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 284/09

1 October 2009

CALL FOR WATER SAVINGS PROPOSALS FOR AUSTRALIAN TOWNS AND SMALL CITIES

The Rudd Government is seeking proposals to develop and implement practical projects to help secure urban water supplies in Australian towns and cities with fewer than 50,000 people.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today called for proposals under the second stage of the *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns* program.

“The Rudd Government is committed to helping Australian communities secure their water supplies for a future with less water due to climate change,” Senator Wong said during a visit to Geraldton today.

“Funding under this program will support cities and towns with fewer than 50,000 people to improve the reliability, efficiency and sustainability of their urban water resources while reducing demand on potable supplies.

“Projects that could be supported include recycling and reuse, stormwater capture and reuse schemes, desalination and water sensitive urban design initiatives.”

Consolidated proposals for multiple community facilities can be submitted through an eligible proponent – for example, local government.

“I encourage urban water service providers, State, Territory or local governments and authorities, and the private sector to apply before the closing date of **1 December 2009**,” Senator Wong said.

Funding is capped at 50 per cent of total project costs, with the minimum Australian Government contribution of \$250,000. While there is no maximum project size, the Australian Government contribution is capped at \$10 million per project.

Projects must be completed by 30 June 2012.

Under an earlier stage of the Government’s *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns*, more than \$100 million is earmarked for projects identified in 2007 election commitments.

Guidelines are available from www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/index.html or by calling 1800 218 478.

Communities in the Murray-Darling Basin are encouraged to apply for funding under the *Strengthening Basin Communities Program: Water Saving Initiative* element which has similar criteria. For more information visit

www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/basin-communities/index.html