



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

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## **REGIONAL COMMUNITIES INVITED TO WATER FOR THE FUTURE INFORMATION SESSIONS**

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts will hold a series of community information sessions throughout the Murray-Darling Basin on the Australian Government's Water for the Future plan, Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong announced today.

"The Rudd Government is getting on with the job of preparing for a future with less rain because of climate change," Senator Wong said.

"We have secured a Federal takeover of Basin planning that will reduce the amount of water that can be taken from our rivers, and we are buying back water to help restore our rivers to health.

"Central to our vision for a sustainable Murray-Darling Basin are strong and vibrant irrigation communities. We are investing in irrigation infrastructure to help our farmers and regional communities and protect food security."

But in this era of extended drought and the emerging effects of climate change, there were still huge challenges in the Murray-Darling Basin, Senator Wong said.

"These challenges can only be addressed by all of us working together to prepare for a future with less water."

The community information sessions will be led by senior departmental staff and will provide in-depth information on the government's water policies and programs.

Topics for discussion will include infrastructure upgrades, water purchasing and environmental water. The sessions will include opportunities for attendees to ask questions.

The sessions will be open to members of the public who are asked to register. For more information about the community information sessions or to register, visit: [www.environment.gov.au/water](http://www.environment.gov.au/water) or call 1800 218 478.

Details for the first two sessions are:

**Deniliquin** – Deniliquin Golf Club, Golf Club Road 12 October 2009 4pm-7pm

**Griffith** – Comfort Inn Gemini, 201-207 Banna Road 13 October 2009 4pm-7pm