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**MEDIA RELEASE**

# **SEARCH TO BEGIN FOR NEW SA WATER CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The SA Water Board soon will begin a process to recruit a new Chief Executive to replace Anne Howe, who will leave the Corporation at the end of the year.

SA Water Chairman Philip Pledge says Ms Howe has informed the Board of her decision to retire at the end of the year.

“Anne has been Chief Executive of SA Water for almost 10 years and has steered the business through significant change and challenges, including the most serious drought on record,” Mr Pledge said.

“While her retirement is some months away, Anne was keen to ensure the Board could start the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive so there would be as little disruption as possible for SA Water staff and the Corporation.

“In her time with us, Anne has led the SA Water team through numerous strategic changes and ensured we could respond swiftly and effectively to challenges such as drought.

“From her oversight of the State’s largest infrastructure project – the Adelaide Desalination Plant – to her commitment to staff, Anne has been an exemplary leader.

“She has also had a long commitment to the community, joining the public sector in 1976 and working in roles in social services, policy, planning and reform, including as Chief Executive of Services SA and Deputy Chief Executive in the Department of Administrative and Information Services.”

Ms Howe said she had a lot of work still to do at SA Water, including preparing the Corporation for new legislation, economic regulation and a new metropolitan alliance contract, and continuing rapid progress on major infrastructure projects.

“I am enormously proud of the efforts of everyone at SA Water and we all know the hard work continues,” Ms Howe said. “I remain committed to leaving the Corporation in great shape and, given the changes on the horizon in the next few years, I wanted to give the Board plenty of opportunity to find a new Chief Executive to lead SA Water into 2011 and beyond.”

Ms Howe said she was also grateful for the efforts of SA Water’s customers in recent years to manage their water use and she felt privileged to have worked with the SA Water Customer Council and many community organisations which had provided SA Water with advice and guidance.

Mr Pledge said the Board would work on a recruitment strategy in the coming weeks before going to the market for a new Chief Executive in July. “This is a hugely important role for the State and we will ensure every effort is made to find the best candidate for the role,” Mr Pledge said.

Anne was appointed Chief Executive in March 2001 following a 6-month period as Acting Chief Executive.

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