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MEDIA RELEASE

WORKSHOP UPGRADE TO BOOST RIVERLAND

The Riverland region is set to benefit from increased engineering capabilities after SA Water officially opened its new \$2 million fabrication workshop at Berri.

SA Water Head of Regional Operations Rob Dowling said Water Engineering Technologies (WET), a business unit of SA Water, now has state-of-the-art facilities which give it the potential to increase water infrastructure works and provide more employment opportunities in the region.

“The new facility will allow us to centralise more of the State’s capital works in the Riverland, which could benefit regional employment as demand increases,” Mr Dowling said.

“Our WET workshop provides fabrication and maintenance support to SA Water’s River Murray Operations Unit which operates from the Goolwa barrages to Lake Victoria, plays a key role in supporting salt interception schemes and supports State-wide operations for SA Water.

“It will also provide improved, specialist engineering services to regional water supply companies.

“WET workshops include electrical, mechanical, black-water diving and fabrication trades and employs up to 50 people each year, depending on the workload.

“We currently employ 10 apprentices across three trades and this new facility gives us the chance to provide even more employment opportunities. It also provides an improved working environment for our team.”

The new fabrication workshop’s features include:

- More than 900 square metres of work space
- Two new gantry lifting cranes
- Improved loading and offloading sites
- Grinding and store rooms
- Gas outlets across the workshop for easy access
- New office and amenities within the building

The workshop also has a number of ‘green’ features, some of which include natural and low energy lighting, insulation, rainwater reuse for toilets and low energy appliances.

It was constructed at the existing SA Water depot at Berri. Work on the facility started in September 2007 and was completed in March this year.