

Wednesday, 16 December 2009

MAJOR WATER PROJECTS HEAD TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Major infrastructure projects worth more than \$270 million are to be submitted today to Parliament's Public Works Committee for approval to improve South Australia's ability to harvest, treat and recycle water.

Minister for the River Murray and Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald said today the huge investment in South Australia's water infrastructure includes stormwater harvesting, upgraded wastewater management and mains water piping.

Minister Maywald says the stormwater projects alone will assist South Australia to more than triple the annual harvest from our current six billion litres to more than 20 billion litres.

"This Government has a comprehensive approach to water security and a healthy River Murray that incorporates stormwater and wastewater reuse, conservation and desalination," Minister Maywald says.

"These latest projects build on South Australia's national leadership in stormwater and wastewater recycling, while we continue to fight for a better deal for the River Murray from the upstream States.

"Using stormwater and recycled water to replace potable water for irrigation and industrial purposes reduces the call on our reservoirs and the River Murray without putting the public health at risk by introducing alternative sources into our drinking water before its scientifically proven to be safe."

The infrastructure projects submitted to the Public Works Committee for consideration include:

○ \$145 million for seven stormwater harvesting projects jointly funded by the Commonwealth, State and Local governments for a total of more than \$145 million comprising:

- Water Proofing the West Stage 1 project to capture, treat and supply up to 2.4 billion litres of stormwater for use in public open space, new housing and for supply to local industry.
- Water Proofing the South Stage 2 project to harvest up to 2.2 billion litres of stormwater for re-use by diverting water at five sites into off-stream wetlands for injection into aquifer storage.
- Playford Stormwater and Reuse to harvest about 640 million litres of stormwater from within the Smith Creek drainage system for irrigating sport reserves and gardens.
- Unity Park Biofiltration and Reuse to harvest about 1.3 billion litres a year of stormwater from the Dry Creek catchment to supply local industry, school and sport facilities, and new housing.
- Adelaide Airport Stormwater Scheme to eventually capture up to 1 billion litres of year from the Brownhill/Keswick Creek system for industrial, commercial and irrigation uses.

- Barker Inlet Stormwater Reuse Scheme project to harvest 350 million litres as year for industrial, commercial and public open spaces in the Regency Park area.
 - Botanic Gardens First Creek Wetland ASR to harvest about 100 million litres a year of stormwater to supply water to irrigate the gardens.
- \$40 million for the Chowilla Environmental Regulator project that includes upgrades to Pipeclay and Slaney Weirs to enable inundation of large areas of floodplain and wetlands to benefit the flora and fauna of the region including state- and nationally-listed threatened species.
- \$24.2 million for the Aldinga Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to cater for future growth of the southern Adelaide region and provide facilities to further treat wastewater to a suitable level where it can be recycled and used for irrigation and urban dual-reticulation.
- \$11.4 million for Muller Road & Regency Road Trunk Water Main between Churchill Road and North East Road to rehabilitate this infrastructure so as to reduce the number of leaks and bursts.
- and \$60 million for the Bird in Hand Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade to improve the quality of treated wastewater discharged into Dawesley Creek, while also providing a sustainable long-term treatment facility for the townships of Charleston, Lobethal, Woodside and Inverbrackie.