

Wednesday, 10 June 2009

### APPROVAL SOUGHT FOR PARK LANDS PROJECT

The former SA Water site at Thebarton is a step closer to being returned to parklands as the State Government today seeks approval for the project from Parliament's Public Works Committee.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the Public Works Committee assessment is the final step required for the project to begin after the independent Development Assessment Commission's approval earlier this month.

"These approvals will mean SA Water can start to remove buildings on the Thebarton site and begin remediating the land so it can be used as public open space," Minister Maywald said.

"Once the 5.5 hectare site has been remediated it will be transferred to the Adelaide City Council to redevelop into an 'urban forest'.

"The Government will be providing an \$800,000 grant to Adelaide City Council to assist with the redevelopment so it can become a sustainable community centrepiece.

"This forest will be a contemporary woodland park, demonstrating best practice garden design and plant selection that promotes water conservation."

Minister Maywald says the project follows Premier Mike Rann's commitment in December 2006 that SA Water would vacate the site and return it to parklands.

"The SA Water staff previously working from the Thebarton site have now relocated to the new headquarters, which means rehabilitation work can start once all the necessary approvals have been granted," Minister Maywald said.

"Adelaide is renowned for its many parklands and this project is another way we can ensure we keep this reputation and provide an attractive gateway into the city."

Pending necessary approvals, it is anticipated the buildings at Thebarton will begin to be removed during July and the work completed within about three months.