

News Release

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Hon Karlene Maywald

Minister for the River Murray

Minister for Water Security

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Small Business

Minister Asst the Minister for Industry and Trade

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\$8M BOOST TO WATER LEAKAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Adelaide's entire water distribution network will be checked for leaks under a new \$8 million program announced today by the State Government.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the program incorporates new technology that will extend current surveillance of Adelaide's 8800 kilometres of underground water pipes.

"SA Water has consistently performed better than the national average for water leakage however we want to do more," she said.

"This three-year program is aimed to save five billion litres of water a year that could otherwise have been lost in small leaks that frequently are not visible from the surface.

"The new process involves using a hand-held listening device at each individual water meter to detect leak noises which then can be followed up with more advanced detection equipment.

"This will help SA Water speed up the process of detecting water leaks and help prioritise where repairs are made."

Minister Maywald says Adelaide already has one of the lowest leakage rates in the nation.

"Over recent years, SA Water's performance in a benchmarking report titled *The National Performance Report for Urban Water Utilities* for leakage reduction has been excellent.

"Under the industry's national benchmark for water leakage – the Infrastructure Leakage Index – SA Water improved from 1.1 in 2005-06 to 1.0 for 2006-07. The index average is 1.0, which for utilities in Australia ranges from 0.4 right up to 1.7.

"Today's funding commitment builds on current efforts by SA Water and infrastructure manager United Water in reducing water leakage from Adelaide's mains.

"Overall, the new \$8m program will contribute to a more efficient asset maintenance and replacement program for Adelaide by SA Water."