



Government  
of South Australia

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**  
Minister for Climate Change and Water

**Hon Karlene Maywald**  
Minister for the River Murray

## Media Release

Monday, May 25, 2009

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### Virginia recycled water extension complete

An extra three billion litres of recycled water per year will be delivered to at least 40 market gardeners in the Virginia-Angle Vale area following completion of a \$6.6 million pipeline extension project.

The South Australian and Commonwealth governments have jointly funded construction of the Virginia-Angle Vale recycled water scheme extension – a 20-kilometre pipeline transferring high quality, treated wastewater from the Bolivar treatment plant to irrigators.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, and SA Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald today announced completion of the project, to which the SA Government has committed nearly \$4.6 million and the Commonwealth \$2 million under the Water Smart Australia program.

Senator Wong says use of recycled water for non-potable purposes provides a sustainable water source for irrigators as well as capacity to increase horticultural production.

“Projects like this support Rudd Government priorities as set out in our Water for the Future plan: securing our water supplies, using water wisely, taking action on climate change and supporting healthy rivers,” Senator Wong said.

“The existing scheme already distributes 15 gigalitres of recycled wastewater per year from Bolivar, and the completion of this extension can now take that figure to 18 gigalitres of reuse. Water recycled from the plant has increased to 35 per cent.”

Minister Maywald says the extension increases Adelaide’s position as the nation’s leading capital city in recycling water.

“This project has multiple benefits – it will increase the State’s use of recycled water as well as reduce discharge of nutrients into the Gulf St Vincent, reduce demand pressure on the region’s over-allocated groundwater resources and help reduce River Murray extractions,” Minister Maywald said.

“The completion of this project further cements Adelaide as a leader in water recycling, currently reusing about 30 per cent of treated wastewater, compared with the national average of 13 per cent.

“Further to this, other projects already underway at our wastewater treatment plants at Christies Beach, Glenelg and Aldinga will assist us in soon being capable of recycling 45 per cent of Adelaide’s wastewater – this is more than three-times the current national average.”

Construction of the project began in July 2008 and was completed on schedule.