



Senator Penny Wong
Minister for Climate Change & Water

Premier Mike Rann
Hon Karlene Maywald
Minister for Water Security

Joint Media Release

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WATER FLOWS FROM GLENELG TO PARK LANDS

Recycled water is now flowing to the Adelaide Park Lands due to the early completion of the Commonwealth and State funded \$76.25 million Glenelg to Adelaide pipeline project.

Completed more than four months ahead of schedule, the 32-kilometre network of pipes will provide recycled water from the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant to Adelaide's parched Park Lands and city gardens.

Recycled water from the pipeline will replace billions of litres of drinking water previously used to irrigate the city's parks and gardens and reduce pressure on Adelaide's reservoirs and the River Murray.

Premier Mike Rann, Federal Minister for Climate Change and Water Senator Penny Wong, South Australian Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill, Minister for the City of Adelaide Jane Lomax-Smith and Minister Water Security Karlene Maywald were joined by Adelaide Lord Mayor Michael Harbison at Rymill Park to 'turn on the tap'.

Premier Rann says the scheme further enhances Adelaide's reputation as the nation's leading capital city in wastewater recycling.

"Adelaide is Australia's leading capital city in water recycling with SA Water recycling about 31% of wastewater, compared to the national average of about 13%," Mr Rann says.

"A key target in the State Government's Water for Good plan is to have the capability to recycle 45% of wastewater from urban areas across the State by 2013 – a target we are well on the way to achieving with the completion of this project.

"SA Water is finalising agreements with more than 40 potential customers along the pipeline route including councils, schools, businesses and government departments.

"While Adelaide City Council is the pipeline's first customer to receive recycled water, we anticipate water will be available to new customers in the coming months."

The Glenelg to Adelaide Park Lands Recycled Water Project is a partnership between the Commonwealth and South Australian governments. The Commonwealth contributed \$30.15 million from the *National Water Initiative* towards this landmark project.

Senator Wong says the extended drought and climate change poses a monumental challenge to the Murray Darling Basin.

“The Glenelg to Adelaide Park Lands Recycled Water Project is an example of how we can develop water supplies for Adelaide that are not dependant on the River Murray and don’t rely entirely on rainfall,” Senator Wong says.

“The recycled water running through the new pipelines will substitute traditional sources of water previously drawn from the River Murray and Adelaide Hills catchments, with non-potable, treated wastewater.

“This project will be complemented by the stormwater projects that are being funded across Adelaide to help reduce the reliance on the Murray River - recognising the likely impacts of climate change.”

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says previously wastewater from the Glenelg plant would have been treated and discharged into the Gulf.

“With the new pipeline completed and upgraded facilities at the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant, the recycled water can be used for irrigation – benefiting the Park Lands, the environment and the River Murray,” Minister Maywald says.

“The early completion of the project means this water will be available to irrigate the city’s public open space during the remainder of this summer, when it’s needed most.”

Work on the project started in September 2008 and included the construction of a new recycled water treatment facility at Glenelg, an eight-kilometre trunk main from Glenelg to the city and a 24-kilometre pipe network around the Park Lands. This project has the capacity to provide up to 5.5 billion litres of high-quality recycled water a year.

Adelaide City Council Lord Mayor Michael Harbison says the Glenelg to Adelaide Park Lands Recycled Water Project is a further step in the right direction for a greener City.

“The project will have tremendous benefits for the community. The Adelaide City Council is very excited to be involved in this joint initiative,” Mayor Harbison says.

“The 30-kilometre pipeline network will carry recycled water for use in up to 95% of City Council irrigated areas. This is great news for the environment and even better for the Park Lands and the community who use these spaces.”