



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Climate Change and Water

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ESSENDON FOOTBALL CLUB FIRST GREEN PRECINCTS PROJECT

The Federal Government is providing the Essendon Football Club with up to \$1.5 million for water and energy efficiency upgrades to its facilities at Windy Hill in Melbourne.

Minister for the Environment, Peter Garrett, said the funding honours an election commitment.

“This is the first project under the \$15 million Green Precincts Fund that will support at least 10 demonstration sites around Australia,” Mr Garrett said.

“The Fund is providing matching funding of \$500,000 to \$1.5 million to community organisations, sporting clubs, and state, territory and local governments for water and energy efficiency demonstration projects in high-profile sites.

“Today we are inviting owners and managers of high-profile community facilities to submit project proposals for the Green Precincts Fund. Successful projects must be able to demonstrate and deliver significant water and energy savings.”

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said the Green Precincts Fund forms part the Government’s \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan to secure the long-term water supplies of all Australians.

“Visitors to Green Precinct sites will be able to see the relevant technologies in action – using water more wisely and energy more efficiently. The aim is to inspire visitors to adopt these ideas at their own community facilities and in their own homes,” Senator Wong said.

Minister for Finance and Deregulation, Lindsay Tanner, said the first stage of the Windy Hill project includes installing an innovative under-oval 800,000 litre water storage system for rain and stormwater.

“Together with other new water saving initiatives and recycling of pool water, the club aims to halve its use of mains water,” Mr Tanner said.

“The Windy Hill precinct will also generate renewable energy through solar or wind power, and install solar hot water services and building monitoring systems including smart metering. This will result in substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

“I’d like to congratulate the Essendon Football Club and its Managing Director Peter Jackson for having the foresight to partner with the Government on this project.”

Guidelines for submitting an Expression of Interest for the Green Precincts Fund are available from www.environment.gov.au/water/programs. Expressions of Interest must be received by 22 November 2008.