



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 01/07

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MINISTER WELCOMES WATER AVAILABILITY REPORTS

The Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, today released the latest two reports in the major CSIRO research project on water availability.

“These reports for the Namoi and the Gwydir regions of NSW make another important contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields Project. This is the largest single research project ever undertaken by the CSIRO,” Senator Wong said.

“The Sustainable Yields Project will be an invaluable resource for the Australian Government as it provides guidance to ensure a long-term, sustainable water supply in the Murray-Darling Basin.

“When the project is completed early next year, there will be a much better basis for making informed decisions and developing new sustainable diversion limits for the Basin’s surface and groundwater systems.

“The project not only draws together information on the current availability and use of surface and groundwater but also assesses the impacts of climate change on future water availability. It is progressively filling significant gaps in our knowledge.

Today’s release brings the number of reports to date to seven, with another 11 assessments underway.

A new integrated surface water and groundwater sustainable diversion limit for the Murray-Darling Basin will be developed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, which will consult irrigators, water providers and the communities of the Basin.

More information about the CSIRO Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Yields project can be found at www.environment.gov.au/water/mdb/yields.html