



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW BUDGET 08

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BUDGET DELIVERS FOR WATER IN WA

The Rudd Government has provided urgent funds to help secure water supplies in Western Australia with early down-payments for two major infrastructure projects.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Penny Wong, said the funds are part of the Rudd Government's \$12.9 billion long-term plan *Water for the Future*.

Water for the Future focuses on four key priorities: taking action on climate change, using water wisely, securing water supplies and supporting healthy rivers.

"We have brought forward \$35 million for an initial contribution to the Harvey Water Piping Project in 2007-08, recognising the urgency of the project and that work is well advanced," Senator Wong said.

"The Government is working closely with the Western Australian Government and Harvey Water on this project, which will help irrigators minimise seepage and evaporation and reduce water use by 30 per cent.

"This year alone, it will save an estimated 17 billion litres, making significantly more water available for Perth households and businesses."

The Government will also deliver \$6.6 million for the Carnarvon Gascoyne Pressurised Irrigation System, which will make water use more efficient and save energy by removing the need for double-pumping.

"The project involves replacing existing open channel irrigation infrastructure across the entire Carnarvon Irrigation Area with high-pressure piped irrigation water delivery systems," Senator Wong said.

"This investment in Western Australia reflects the Government's truly national approach to securing water for the future."