



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW BUDGET 08

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BUDGET DELIVERS ON WATER FOR TASMANIA

The Rudd Government has delivered key water election commitments for Tasmania through the 2008-09 Budget.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said supporting sustainable irrigation projects through an investment of up to \$140 million will help grow the Tasmanian economy.

“The Rudd Government will provide funding support to Tasmanian irrigation projects that will increase employment in regional areas,” Senator Wong said.

Senator Wong said the Budget also delivers on key election commitments in the Huon Valley and Derwent River that would be funded under the five-year \$254.8 million *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns*.

“The Rudd Government will provide \$12 million for the Huon Valley Water Scheme to improve water quality for households and help secure around 200 jobs in the local aquaculture industry,” Senator Wong said.

“A further \$10.5 million will be provided to support water recycling and reuse in irrigation in South East Tasmania, with the added benefit of reducing wastewater discharge into the Derwent river system.”

The Tasmanian projects form part of the Rudd Government’s \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* package.

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

Importantly, *Water for the Future* recognises the national leadership role the Federal Government must play in water across the whole country.