



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

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RUDD GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN WATER INDUSTRY SKILLS

The Rudd Government will invest \$1.725 million in two new projects to improve skills in Australia's water industry, Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, announced today.

Senator Wong said the new \$1.5 million Graduate Course in Water Planning, to be provided by several universities, would boost the number of qualified professionals to tackle Australia's water challenges.

A new \$250,000 National Water Sector Skills Project will develop a national picture of the skills shortages in government, the irrigation sector and with urban and rural providers.

"The Rudd Government is committed to making better use of water," Senator Wong said.

"The Graduate Course in Water Planning will help qualified professionals to build the water management skills we need to tackle Australia's water challenges – challenges that are becoming even more urgent in the face of climate change.

"Graduates will be equipped to contribute to the development of regional and urban water allocation plans for all Australian catchments and groundwater systems.

"Importantly, \$200,000 of this funding has been allocated to providing scholarship support for disadvantaged community sectors, including Indigenous students."

Further information is available from www.nwc.gov.au/agwf/rnws/rnws_projects.cfm