



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

PW 57/08

Wednesday 30, April 2008

BAROSSA WATER RECYCLING TO SAVE 60 MILLION LITRES

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today opened a water recycling plant in the Barossa Valley that will save 60 million litres of Murray River water every year.

Senator Wong said more recycling projects would be rolled out as part of the Rudd Government's new \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan announced yesterday.

Water for the Future focuses on four key priorities:

- taking action on climate change;
- using water wisely;
- securing water supplies; and
- supporting healthy rivers

“Securing water supplies by using recycled water in place of drinking water is a key part of *Water for the Future*,” Senator Wong said.

Waste water from wineries is now being recycled at the North Para Environmental Control Waste Water Treatment Plant and piped to seven Barossa vineyards for reuse in irrigation.

Work was completed earlier this month to connect the seven vineyards to the recycled water.

“By treating and recycling winery waste water, this project will save sixty million litres of water every year that would otherwise come from the Murray River,” Senator Wong said.

“Climate change is already impacting the amount of water we have, so it's crucial that industries look to recycling and water efficiency to do more with less,” Senator Wong said.

The Barossa project is being supported by \$152,850 in Federal Government investment.

New funding will be available in the 2008/09 Budget to fund further recycling projects through the \$1 billion *National Urban Water and Desalination Plan* and the \$250 million *National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns*.