



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

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FUNDING TO HELP IRRIGATION PROVIDERS ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Irrigation water providers in the Murray-Darling Basin can apply for up to \$500,000 funding each to help them modernise their water delivery infrastructure.

The funding aims to help Basin irrigation water providers plan for a future with reduced water availability by providing support for them to make their facilities efficient and sustainable.

“Australia’s climate is changing and we have less available water than ever before. So we must make every effort to use the water we do have more efficiently,” Senator Wong said.

“Under this new round of Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance, corporations operating irrigation delivery systems can apply for funds to help make their systems viable for the future.”

Senator Wong said the funding was part of the Rudd Government’s long-term, \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan.

“*Water for the Future* has four key priorities: using water wisely, securing water supplies, tackling climate change and supporting healthy rivers.

“With many irrigation systems in Australia more than 80 years old, and with climate change reducing available water, we need to work to modernise these systems.

“This funding will help irrigation providers develop modernisation plans for their regions to upgrade irrigation infrastructure and assess options to adapt to a future with less water.”

Senator Wong said water saved by modernising delivery infrastructure will be returned to the environment to improve the health of our rivers and waterways.

“I encourage irrigation water providers in the Basin to apply for up to \$500,000 to obtain independent expertise to help them prepare plans to increase the efficiency of their irrigation delivery systems.”

Funding under the program will be drawn from the \$5.8 billion committed by the Rudd Government for sustainable irrigation infrastructure and initiatives to help communities make early adjustments in anticipation of the new Basin cap on water extractions.

Total funds for this round will be determined after assessment of the range and quality of applications. A previous round announced in February shared \$4.6 million among 14 irrigation water providers.

Guidelines and application forms are available from www.environment.gov.au/water