



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

---

PW 188/08

24 September 2008

## **\$20 MILLION EXTRA TO IMPROVE WATER INFORMATION**

The Rudd Government is providing an extra \$20 million to improve water data collection and water information networks across Australia.

Under the *Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Program*, an extra \$20 million has been made available this financial year to improve water information networks in urban and regional areas.

“The Rudd Government’s long-term water plan, *Water for the Future*, has four priorities: tackling climate change, using water wisely, securing our water supplies and supporting healthy rivers,” Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said today.

“To better deliver on these priorities, we need comprehensive and robust information about our water supplies.

“This \$20 million extra funding will help improve the coverage, accuracy and currency of water information, to help us get a clear and up-to-date picture of our water resources.

“The aim of this funding is to ensure that Australia has a consistent approach to water measurement, water data standards, and collecting water data.”

Senator Wong said the provision of the funding was further evidence of the Rudd Government’s intention to work co-operatively with states and territories to achieve better water outcomes.

Managed by the Bureau of Meteorology, the funding is available for a range of activities including:

- Improving co-ordination of monitoring activities;
- Improving accuracy and currency of existing measurement networks of stream flow, meteorology, groundwater and water storages;
- Improving procedures for the management of water data within agencies; and
- Enhancing monitoring network coverage for the purposes of water resources assessment and water accounting.

Organisations listed in the Water Regulations 2008 can apply for funding, including state and territory agencies that currently monitor water resources, irrigation co-operatives, urban water utilities and catchment management authorities.

Applications can be made through bids to be co-ordinated by state and territory lead water agencies. Bids must be received no later than 5pm on 10 October 2008.

Information including contact information, eligibility and how to apply for the funding is available at [http://www.bom.gov.au/water/funding\\_program.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/funding_program.shtml)