



The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister
Federal Member for Wentworth

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR WATER PROJECTS IN NSW TO RECEIVE FUNDING

Federal Parliamentary Secretary with responsibility for water policy, Malcolm Turnbull, today announced funding for four major water projects for New South Wales on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Making the announcement at the Mardi Water Treatment Plant, Tuggerah on World Water Day Mr Turnbull said the projects, worth more than \$70 million, will receive more than \$17 million from the Australian Government's Water Smart Australia programme.

'The projects will build on water saving measures already in place and include interconnection of the Hunter Valley and Gosford-Wyong water systems, stormwater harvesting and reuse in Chatswood, extending an existing recycling system in Albury and providing valuable resources to reduce water leakage in council owned town water systems across regional NSW,' Mr Turnbull said.

'The projects will provide ongoing benefits to regional communities and will demonstrate the value of water recycling and reuse.

'These projects demonstrate the Australian Government's commitment to improving water management across Australia and are part of a number of projects from the first round of the Water Smart Australia programme to be announced.'

Ensuring sustainable future water supplies for the rapidly growing Gosford-Wyong and Hunter regions will be achieved through construction of a pipeline that will enable water transfers between the systems, making better use of these water resources. The Australian Government is providing \$6.61 million for the \$37.76 million project.

A \$5.64 million stormwater harvesting project in the centre of Chatswood will reduce potable water consumption in the Civic Place development by 25 megalitres a year — a reduction of 81 per cent compared to standard practice. Stormwater discharge to local creeks and Middle Harbour will also be reduced by 14 per cent. The Australian Government is providing \$1.88 million for the project.

The extension of a reclaimed effluent system for irrigation and non-potable household use around a housing estate in Albury, water conservation work at a nearby school and new systems to use reclaimed water from the Norske Skog Paper Mill outside Albury will reduce water extracted by Albury City from the Murray River by seven per cent. The 900 megalitres per annum of water

saved from this \$4.96 million project will be transferred to the Living Murray Initiative. The Australian Government is providing \$1.50 million for this project.

Up to 15 000 megalitres of water a year will be recovered through a \$22.16 million project with 33 NSW Regional Water Utilities and coordinated by the Water Directorate, so they can better identify, prioritise and undertake on-ground work to reduce water leakage across council owned town water systems. The Australian Government is providing \$7.39 million for this project.

‘These are the first of a number of projects to be funded under the Water Smart Australia Programme to be announced this year. Further announcements on other projects will be made shortly,’ Mr Turnbull said.

‘I congratulate everyone involved in the development of these projects and applaud them for helping to find solutions to water management problems for current and future generations.

‘A second call for projects under the Water Smart Australia Programme has also been announced today and I urge any organisation that can contribute to the sustainable and efficient management of Australia’s water resources through large, on-ground water project to consider making an application.’

The Water Smart Australia Programme is open to groups in rural, regional and urban areas for projects that generate substantial improvements in water resource management, water supply, water use efficiency, environmental flows or river health and water quality.

Further information on these projects and the Water Smart Australia Programme, including programme guidelines, is available from the National Water Commission website at http://www.nwc.gov.au/water_fund/index.cfm.

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