

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	128
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Broken Hill water supply		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	124 (9/2/10)		

**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON**—can I put this on notice: could you indicate what the progress of engineering works has been in terms of Menindee Lakes and securing Broken Hill's water supply, because that seems to be the nub of the issue. Broken Hill deserves a secure water supply, but there would be a massive loss, given the current structure of the lakes. Thank you.

**Senator Wong**—What are you seeking, Senator?

**Senator XENOPHON**—Just an update on both the engineering works and any progress with respect to securing Broken Hill's water supply, and—

**Senator Wong**—Ms Harwood can probably provide you with some information on what has occurred to date.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—I was going to ask the same question, so I would be grateful for at least a quick briefing.

**Ms Harwood**—There are investigative studies taking place at the moment, looking among the options to see which investment in infrastructure would give the best outcomes in terms of securing Broken Hill's water supply and more efficient water management at Menindee Lakes itself. They are due to report at the end of February in one case and at the end of March in another. So when we have that suite of studies, including the investigation of managed aquifer recharge, we will be able to look at what the best investment decision to take forward is.

**Senator XENOPHON**—I put my hand up for a briefing when that becomes available.

**Senator Wong**—We would be happy to provide that, Senator.

**Answer:**

Engineering works have not commenced. A detailed assessment of the infrastructure options, costs and expected outcomes is under way. In particular, the Darling River Water Savings Project (Part B) has evaluated the engineering options for reducing evaporative losses from the Lakes, together with securing future water supplies for Broken Hill. This project was co-funded by the Australian and New South Wales Governments. The final report for this Project was completed in March 2010.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

A related project, the Broken Hill Managed Aquifer Recharge (BHMAR) Project (commissioned and funded by the Australian Government) is evaluating the feasibility of using managed aquifer recharge in the Menindee Lakes region as an option for securing Broken Hill's water supply. The current phase of the project looking at the characteristics of the target aquifers (e.g. size and water quality), and includes an airborne electromagnetic survey of the region, and a drilling program of test bores. A total of \$11.6m has been spent on the BHMAR project to date. An interim report from this phase of the project was submitted in late March 2010.

Further work will be conducted including water sampling, laboratory analysis, borehole pump testing and detailed interpretation of results to confirm the findings of the interim report. A final report will be provided to the Australian Government in September 2010.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	129
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water purchases NSW - MOU		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	130 (9/2/10)		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—Is that MOU a public document?

**Dr Horne**—New South Wales's, yes.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—It is on the website somewhere. If it is a public document could you provide it in answer—that would be more helpful.

**Dr Horne**—Yes.

**Answer:**

The Memorandum of Understanding between the New South Wales Government and the Commonwealth of Australia in relation to water for the environment is provided at Attachment A.

It is also publicly available from the following websites:

Australian Government - Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/policy-programs/entitlement-purchasing/index.html>

New South Wales - Office of Water:  
<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-recovery/Water-recovery/default.aspx>

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

Attachment A

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

in relation to water for the environment

This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between

**the NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT**

and

**the COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The scarcity of water arising from prolonged drought and the emerging impacts of climate change has highlighted the importance of water to our communities, the environment and the economy. In recognising these challenges, the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments have committed to actions that will secure additional water for the environment to restore the health of rivers and wetlands and secure a sustainable future for irrigated agriculture, which makes a vital contribution to the Australian economy.
2. The parties note the "Water for Environment" agreement between the Prime Minister and the Premier of Victoria. The parties support the purchase of water entitlements for the environment as a means to secure the sustainability of the Murray-Darling Basin, but acknowledge the need for fair burden sharing in terms of the volume of water recovered from within each jurisdiction within the Murray-Darling Basin.
3. In addition to water purchases for the environment, water for the environment will be secured by:
  - a. infrastructure investment creating water savings to be transferred to the Commonwealth; and
  - b. implementation of statutory water sharing plans that comply with sustainable diversion limits to be established under the new Basin Plan.
4. The NSW and Australian Governments acknowledge and support the important and ongoing work around infrastructure investment, development of statutory water sharing plans (WSP) and existing environmental watering programs including:
  - a. Commonwealth investment in rural water infrastructure: During 2007 and 2008, the Commonwealth committed in principle to providing approximately \$1.8b in funding for projects in NSW, subject to due diligence assessment. This includes a suite of State Priority Projects, involving investment both off-farm and on-farm, as well as election commitments such as for Menindee Lakes. This investment has the dual purpose of securing water for the environment with a share of the water savings to be transferred to the Commonwealth as well as assisting irrigation water providers, individual irrigators and their communities to improve long term sustainability and adjust to a future with less water.
  - b. NSW development of statutory WSPs: Ninety per cent of water use in NSW is now managed through statutory water sharing plans. These plans set limits on overall water extractions, have recovered water for the environment, and make specific provision for environmental flows through environmental entitlements or rules-based environmental flows. NSW water sharing plans were developed to recover a significant volume of water per year for the environment when compared against 1993-94 levels of diversion used in the management of the Murray-Darling Basin cap.
  - c. Joint initiatives, including The Living Murray, Water for Rivers, the RiverBank program, and other activities that benefit the environment.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

5. The parties agree to continue to cooperate in relation to these existing mechanisms.
6. The parties strongly support an open water market and recognise the vital role of the market in implementing necessary water reforms and providing commercial options for irrigators to respond to changing circumstances, including reduced water availability.
7. The parties recognise that:
  - a. Substantial purchases of water for the environment have already occurred in NSW. The total water purchased under the Riverbank, Rivers Environment Restoration Program (RERP) and the Living Murray (TLM) programs at August 2009 is 556 gigalitres (GL) of entitlement. NSW water purchases under these programs were supported by Commonwealth funding of \$71.77 million for Riverbank (including RERP) and \$76.16 million under the TLM Package B and Market Purchase Measure.
  - b. Purchases secured in NSW under the Commonwealth's Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin program amount to 393 gigalitres of entitlement as at 31 August 2009.
  - c. 56 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin is in NSW, 65 per cent of flows originate in NSW and NSW accounts for on average 51 per cent of surface water extraction.
  - d. The Basin Plan will contain provision for trade rules and also an environmental watering plan on which the States will be consulted in the development of the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan has the potential to resolve many of the issues associated with the delivery of environmental water.
8. The parties agree that water purchases are an essential element of securing water for the environment. As part of Water for the Future, the Commonwealth is committed to implementing a water purchase program across the Murray-Darling Basin to restore the health of the river system and help smooth the transition for irrigators to the lower diversion limits expected under the Basin Plan. Over the five years from 2008-09, the Commonwealth is committed to purchasing a balanced, value-for-money portfolio of water entitlements to the value of at least \$2.5 billion (from a ten year program of \$3.1 billion.)
9. The parties further agree that:
  - a. Water purchases should be made on a value for money basis, to provide water to address high priority environmental watering needs in order to maximise environmental outcomes.
  - b. There should be fair burden sharing among Basin States in terms of the volumes of water purchased by the Commonwealth for the environment.
  - c. Water purchasing for the environment will be most effective if all Basin States remove barriers to trade as soon as possible, consistent with requirements of the NWI.
  - d. The Commonwealth's environmental water purchase program should not be delayed until the trade rules and environmental watering plan are completed as part of the Basin Plan.
  - e. Irrigators in all areas of NSW will continue to have the option of joining together to negotiate managed closures (group sale of entitlements to the Commonwealth).
10. In the meantime this MOU sets out principles and processes which the parties have agreed to facilitate balanced delivery of the Commonwealth's water purchase program.
11. This joint commitment by the NSW and Commonwealth governments also recognises the necessity of supporting irrigation communities in their efforts to secure a sustainable future in the face of expected lower diversion limits under the Basin Plan and declining water availability due to climate change.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**FAIR BURDEN SHARING**

12. Both parties are concerned at trade restrictions and user subsidies that distort the water market. They consider that this market distortion is likely to result in:
  - a. reduced supply of water available for purchase by the Commonwealth; and
  - b. potential imbalance in terms of the relative proportion of Commonwealth water purchases made in each Basin State.
13. At the end of May 2009, the publicly available information on the outcomes of the Commonwealth water purchase program suggested more than 95 per cent of purchases had been made from NSW, leading to the imposition of a NSW embargo.
14. Since that time a substantial volume of additional purchases have been made, and secured purchases from Victorian now total almost 140 GL. As at 31 August 2009 the NSW proportion of all Commonwealth environmental water purchases had declined to 72 per cent. This MoU and the May 2009 agreement between the Commonwealth and Victoria provide a pathway to move further over time to fair burden sharing in the overall purchase program.
15. In seeking to achieve balance in terms of burden sharing among Basin states, the Commonwealth will use a quantum target for Commonwealth water purchases in NSW under the Restoring the Balance program of around 890 GL of general security entitlement (or equivalent) over the five years from 2008-09 inclusive. The quantum target of 890 GL general security entitlement (or equivalent) reflects a balance in terms of the proportion of purchases in NSW and Victoria, based on the expected reduction (median CSIRO projection) in surface water availability borne by the environment in these states.
16. The parties agree that
  - a. in 2009 -10 tenders, offers to NSW sellers will be capped at 60GL of general security entitlement (or equivalent) unless otherwise agreed
  - b. In 2010 -11 tenders, offers to NSW sellers will be capped at 80 GL of general security (or equivalent) unless otherwise agreed
  - c. In 2011 -12 tenders, offers to NSW sellers will be capped at 80 GL of general security (or equivalent) unless otherwise agreed
  - d. In 2012 -13 tenders, offers to NSW sellers will be capped at the shortfall between total purchases at the commencement of the year and 890GL general security entitlements (or equivalent).
17. The approach described in para 16 will ensure purchases of around 890 GL of general security entitlement (or equivalent) in NSW over the five year period.
18. Consistent with NSW legislation, NSW will give trade approval to all water purchases which were pursued in NSW by the Commonwealth from its 2008-09 Southern Basin and Northern Basin tenders. These total 532 GL of entitlements.
19. The parties note that for the Commonwealth environmental water purchase program in 2007-08 and 2008-09, purchases in NSW will total around 560 GL entitlements (around 320 GL cap equivalent - around 57 per cent of MDB total). Purchases from Victoria for the same period will total 222 GL entitlements (around 200 GL cap equivalent - 36 per cent of MDB total).
20. The parties note that not all the offers made on water entitlements in one year will be settled in that year, due to offers being pursued late in the irrigation season.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

21. The parties agree that the quantum target of 890 GL does not include or apply to water entitlements associated with the Commonwealth's share of water savings derived from Commonwealth-funded infrastructure projects, including State Priority Projects.

**REMOVAL OF THE NSW EMBARGO ON WATER PURCHASES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

22. NSW will immediately repeal the order under section 71Z(1) of the Water Management Act 2000 (NSW) published in the Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales No. 102 on Thursday 9 July 2009 which applied an embargo on trade of water for environmental purposes.
23. Further, NSW will stand by its commitment to the COAG and National Water Initiative in relation to water trading, including to refrain from introducing any new barriers to trade, except where such amendments are needed for operational purposes, including to minimise transmission losses.
24. NSW agrees that water rights held and used by the Commonwealth will be subject to terms that are no less favourable than those provided to other holders of equivalent rights.

**MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WATER IN NSW**

***Ensuring best environmental outcomes in management of environmental water***

25. The parties agree that the use (deployment) of environmental water should be based on sound scientific evidence and seek to achieve the best environmental outcomes possible across the Murray-Darling Basin from the water available.
26. The parties recognise that many environmental assets are under significant stress due to both river regulation and a lack of available water resulting from many factors including climate change, particularly in the southern Murray-Darling Basin.
27. Commonwealth environmental water is managed by an independent statutory office holder – the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The Commonwealth environmental water holdings must be managed in accordance with the environmental watering plan in the Basin Plan, once it has been adopted.
28. The Commonwealth will continue to consult with and seek suggestions from NSW with regard to environmental watering priorities, including coordinating, where possible, the use of environmental water held by the Commonwealth, NSW and other entities. In this regard, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water are currently parties to a memorandum of understanding on the cooperative use of environmental water.
29. Water acquired by the Commonwealth will be used to water key environmental assets in the Basin. In New South Wales these assets may include but are not limited to the Darling River, Culgoa Floodplain, Narran Lakes, the Wakool River System, the Macquarie Marshes, the Gwydir wetlands, Booligal Swamp, the Lowbidgee wetlands, the Millewa and Pericoota-Koondrook forests. Significant volumes of water will be required to protect and restore environmental assets, giving effect to relevant international agreements.
30. The parties acknowledge that physical characteristics of rivers and other water sources affect the amount of water that may flow for environmental watering purposes. These physical constraints may vary:
- a. from river to river;
  - b. between reaches of the same river;



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

- c. as a result of the management of interconnected rivers;
- d. as a result of climatic conditions; and
- e. as a result of general river management requirements (such as orders from water users, management of algal blooms and delivery of water for the NSW environmental water manager).

***Shepherding of environmental water***

- 31. The parties agree that the benefits of investing in water for the environment can only be fully realised if water rights can be used in an optimal way to meet high priority needs.
- 32. To implement the commitment made by their respective water ministers to negotiate a bilateral agreement to ensure that all water for the environment can be protected from access by downstream consumptive users, the Commonwealth and New South Wales agree that:
  - a. A joint taskforce comprising officials from NSW and the Commonwealth, funded by the Commonwealth, will develop a draft bilateral agreement for consideration by Ministers by 30 November 2009, which provides for water shepherding in NSW.
  - b. The bilateral agreement will establish principles for water shepherding and its implementation including:
    - i. scope, terms of reference and resourcing for the ongoing work of the joint task force.
    - ii. provisions for shepherding throughout NSW and from the Queensland border, for environmental water held by the Commonwealth;
  - c. The objective of the agreement is to optimise the use of all water for the environment, to provide the capacity to deliver water to high priority environmental assets, and, in the case of in-stream environmental watering, to provide protection for environmental flows to pass through the system as far as transmission losses allow.
  - d. NSW undertakes to implement the agreed water shepherding strategy subject to:
    - i. Commonwealth funding of costs associated with implementation (including costs arising from modelling, monitoring, operational, licensing or compliance issues), in excess of those incurred by NSW in meeting its statutory obligations to manage water in NSW; and implementing existing commitments under the NWI and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform
    - ii. Entitlements and allocations held by water users in NSW will not be enhanced nor diminished as a result of environmental watering actions and shepherding for environmental watering.
  - e. In the period before permanent arrangements are agreed:
    - i. NSW will endeavour to shepherd Commonwealth holdings for environmental watering acquired by purchase or investment in infrastructure by the Commonwealth; and
    - ii. The Commonwealth will fund the costs associated with this shepherding (including costs arising from modelling, monitoring, operational, licensing or compliance issues), in excess of those incurred by NSW in meeting its statutory obligations to manage water in NSW; and implementing existing commitments under the NWI and the Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee

Answers to questions on notice

Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio

Additional Estimates, February 2010

39. NSW is responsible within its borders for managing access to water and ensuring water is shared between the environment, towns and cities, and farmers and industry as well as for Aboriginal cultural activities. NSW will manage water in accordance with:

- a. State and Commonwealth legislation, including the Basin Plan when it comes into effect; and
- b. existing commitments under the National Water Initiative (NWI) and the Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform.

34. In recognition of the necessity of Basin-wide water trading to allow the efficient operation of water markets, the NSW commits to implementing a water sharing plan for the Murray-Darling that is consistent with the National Water Initiative by 30 June 2011, unless otherwise agreed.

**REPORTING AND REVIEW**

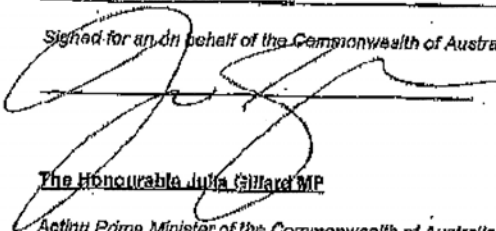
35. The Commonwealth undertakes to report publicly on a monthly basis on the volumes of environmental water purchased and secured in NSW and in other Murray Darling Basin states.

36. The parties agree to review progress in implementing the provisions of this MOU on an annual basis.

37. The parties agree to this document being publicly available once both have signed.

---

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by:



**The Honourable Julia Gillard MP**

Acting Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

22 September 2009



**The Honourable Nathan Rees MP**

Premier of the State of New South Wales

23 September 2009

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	130
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	NVIRP Stage 2 - NSW		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	131 (9/2/09)		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

**Ms Harwood**—Those time lines were agreed as part of the audit of where the state priority projects were up to. That took place late last year. They are dates agreed between the Commonwealth and the states.

**Senator Wong**—The audit was a Commonwealth initiative.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—These are the first tranches of those dates to fall due since that audit was completed?

**Ms Harwood**—I would have to check on that. There may have been some for last year, but I will take that on notice just to check that I get the dates right and that the provision was needed by then.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—Remind me again: is that audit a public document?

**Ms Harwood**—I do not believe so.

**Senator BIRMINGHAM**—Is there somewhere where we are able to see what the dates or commitments given by the states on these matters actually are?

**Senator Wong**—We will probably take that on notice. My recollection is that the audit was dealt with by COAG, so it would be a decision for COAG as to whether or not that would be released. We will have to take that on notice.

**Answers:**

During September and early October 2009, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts conducted an audit on the status of the Murray-Darling Basin State Priority Projects agreed in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform signed 3 July 2008.

The audit was initiated to review progress by state and territory governments towards realising the priority project related outcomes of the agreement.

The audit resulted in agreement between the Murray-Darling Basin States and the Commonwealth on milestones for completion of Water Management Partnership Agreements, delivery of business cases in respect of state-led Priority Projects, and early works being undertaken by each of the states to enable tangible progress to be made in the development and delivery of Priority Projects.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

The Communique for the Council of Australian Governments' meeting on 7 December 2009 notes:

COAG welcomed recent progress under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform (IGA)*, which committed governments to a new culture and practice of Basin-wide management and planning through new governance structures and partnerships. Commonwealth-State Water Management Partnership Agreements have been, or are about to be completed shortly, while early work on critical infrastructure projects is underway in each State. COAG also affirmed State commitments to deliver all business cases for priority infrastructure projects under the *IGA*, including timeframes for their commencement and completion, by June 2010.

Commitments to dates were made on a government-to government basis for the information of COAG and are not public information.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	131
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Restoring the Balance in the MDB		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much has the Government spent purchasing entitlements since its election, and in the current financial year? How much is allocated for next financial year?
2. What targets for water purchases (by value and volume) does the Government have for each remaining year of the buyback program, including this one?
3. What is the current water allocation against all entitlements purchased?
4. What is the delay by state between acceptance of the Government as a tender and completion of the transfer?
5. Of accepted tenders this financial year, what value (by dollars and megalitres) failed due diligence and were not settled?
6. Has the 4 per cent cap, in relation to water in a particular irrigation system in Victoria being sold out of that system in any one year, been reached for any region? If so, for each region please detail when the cap was reached, how much water was purchased prior to the cap being reached and how many tenders have been unsuccessful due to the cap having been reached.

**Answers:**

1. Since its election, the Government had secured the purchase of water entitlements worth \$1,276 million under the Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin program (as at 30 April 2010). Over this period, the Government has spent \$1.13 billion on settling water purchases.

As at 30 April 2010, \$731.98 million has been spent on water purchases in 2009-10.

The budget allocated for the purchase of water entitlements under the Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin program in 2010-11 is \$308.8 million.

2. The Australian Government will continue to focus on purchasing those entitlements which offer best value for money within the available budget.

The forward budget estimates for the Restoring the Balance water purchase program are shown in Table 1.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Table 1: Restoring the Balance in the Murray-Darling Basin**

<b>Current Profile</b>	<b>2009-10 \$m</b>	<b>2010-11 \$m</b>	<b>2011-12 \$m</b>	<b>2012-13 \$m</b>	<b>Total<sup>1</sup> \$m</b>
Bill 1 Appropriation	38.0	19.7	9.0	9.0	75.5
Bill 2- assets & liabilities	1,225.6	308.8	212.8	380.7	2127.8
Budget and forward estimates Total Budget	1,263.6	328.5	221.8	389.7	2203.5

<sup>1</sup> rounding of figures may result in minor summing discrepancies  
As per Portfolio Budget Statement (includes \$100 M bring forward per 2020-11 PBS)

3. As of 1 May 2010, the allocations accrued against the registered Commonwealth environmental water holdings in the 2009-10 water year total 126 GL.
4. The number of business days between an offer being accepted (proceeding to due diligence) and the transaction being settled for each state for 2008-09 tender purchases are provided in Table 2. It should be noted that processing of purchases made through the 2008-09 tender was adversely affected by state level delays in obtaining trade approval.

**Table 2: Conveyancing processing times (in business days) by state for 2008-09 as of 20 May 2010.**

<b>State</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>NSW</b>	135	47	245
<b>QLD</b>	143	115	162
<b>SA</b>	132	72	207
<b>VIC</b>	127	57	264

5. As at 20 May 2010, two trades from the January 2010 tender involving 350 ML of water entitlements worth \$460,000 had failed due diligence checks and consequently were not pursued by the Department.
6. As at 19 May 2010, the 4 per cent trade-out limit for 2009-10 has been reached in 7 of the 17 irrigation area reliability classes listed on the Victorian Water Register as shown in [Attachment A](#).

As at 19 May 2010, the Commonwealth has had 287 trade applications (for a combined volume of 54.4 GL of entitlements) rejected in Victoria due to the 4 per cent cap being reached. Some of these trades may subsequently be approved as part of the agreed 60 GL of exemptions for 2009-10 from the 4 per cent limit under the “Water for the Environment” Agreement between the Australian and Victorian governments. If not, a trade approval application will be re-lodged in the 2010-11 irrigation season.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Attachment A**

**Status of the four per cent limit on trade in Victorian Irrigation Districts 2009-10<sup>1</sup>**

Source: Victorian Water Register, 19 May 2010, Report executed at 4:36:10 PM

<sup>1</sup> The water register is a live database – the above numbers change instantaneously as trades are processed.

<b>Irrigation Area</b>	<b>Reliability Class</b>	<b>4% Trade-out Limit (ML)</b>	<b>Trade-out excl. Exemptions (ML)</b>	<b>Limit Remaining (ML)</b>	<b>Limit Remaining (%)</b>	<b>Net Exemption Approvals (ML)</b>
Torrumbarry Irrigation Area	High	12474.7	12305.6	169.1	1	11037.4
Central Goulburn Irr. Area	High	13668.6	13956.8	-288.2	-2	10721.2
Murray Valley Irrigation Area	High	10002.4	10034.5	-32.1	0	9953.7
Pyramid-Boort	High	7849.3	23157.3	-15308	-195	6223.4
Robinvale, Red Cliffs, Merbein, FMID	High	6268.1	6258.8	9.3	0	4938.8
Rochester Irrigation Area	High	6684	6661.9	22.1	0	4640.3
Campaspe Irrigation District	High	715.9	966	-250.1	-35	3214.1
Shepparton Irrigation Area	High	6443.8	6234.2	209.6	3	403.4
Nyah, Tresco and Woorinen	High	1159.9	749	410.9	35	360
Murray Valley Irrigation Area	Low	4633.8	4983.3	-349.5	-8	1109.7
Torrumbarry Irrigation Are	Low	5718.8	5531.6	187.2	3	688.7
Pyramid-Boort	Low	3583.3	865.9	2717.4	76	579.9
Rochester Irrigation Area	Low	3018.4	2882.4	136	5	400.4
Central Goulburn Irr. Area	Low	6229.6	5410.2	819.4	13	230
Nyah, Tresco and Woorinen	Low	223.6	177.6	46	21	75.8
Shepparton Irrigation Area	Low	2959	1100.7	1858.3	63	67.2
Campaspe Irrigation District	Low	396.4	85.8	310.6	78	0
		<b>92,029.60</b>	<b>101,361.60</b>			<b>54,644.00</b>

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 132  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Efficiency Division  
**Topic:** Infrastructure efficiencies  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. What dollar value of infrastructure operator efficiency spending will be spent in 2009/10 and in each of the forward estimates years, and what are the estimated resulting water savings?
2. What dollar value of on-farm infrastructure spending will be spent in 2009/10 and in each of the forward estimates years, and what are the estimated resulting water savings?

**Answers:**

1. The Government's water reform package is 'Water for the Future'. Some programs under 'Water for the Future' are predominantly for funding water infrastructure. The total expenditure under 'Water for the Future' to end April 2010 for rural infrastructure is \$537.2 million.

The current budget and forward estimates for the 'Water for the Future' programs (which include funding for Treasury for payments to the states under the Federal Financial Relations framework) that are predominantly infrastructure are shown in the following table.

<b>Water for the Future Program</b>	<b>2009-10 \$m</b>	<b>2010-11 \$m</b>	<b>2011-12 \$m</b>	<b>2012-13 \$m</b>
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program	409.3	727.1	873.7	899.9
Water Smart Australia	200.7	223.5		
The Living Murray Initiative	58.3			
Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9

Infrastructure projects are subject to rigorous assessment prior to funding being agreed for them. Pending receipt of detailed business plans and subsequent due diligence assessment, it is not possible to provide forecasts of expected water savings for each project.

**Contact** Richard McLoughlin  
**Clearance** Mary Harwood

**Ex:** 9063  
**Ex:** 2345

**AS-CMS Sig:** Date  
**FAS-PCD Sig:** Date  
**SEC/DEP SEC Sig:** Date



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

2. The total expenditure under ‘Water for the Future’ to end April 2010 for on-farm infrastructure is \$41 million.

In May 2009, the Government allocated \$300 million (to the *On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency* program) under ‘Water for the Future’ (from the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program), specifically for grants to irrigators in the Lachlan and southern connected system of the Murray-Darling Basin to modernise their on-farm irrigation infrastructure and return water to the environment. In March 2010, in-principle funding of \$100 million was announced under Round One of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program, leaving \$200 million to be shared across the two remaining rounds. On-farm projects are also being developed in NSW and Queensland which have funding of up to \$300m and \$115m respectively as part of the State Priority Projects contained in the Murray-Darling Basin Reform Intergovernmental Agreement signed in July 2008.

Until such time the various project assessment processes are complete, it is not possible to provide forecasts of expected water savings for this program.

Contact Richard McLoughlin  
Clearance Mary Harwood

Ex: 9063  
Ex: 2345

AS-CMS Sig: Date  
FAS-PCD Sig: Date  
SEC/DEP SEC Sig: Date

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	133
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	On-farm infrastructure		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much has the Government spent on on-farm infrastructure projects since its election?
2. On what projects or programs has expenditure been made?
3. What targets for on-farm infrastructure projects (in value and volume) does the Government have for each remaining year of the program, including this one?

**Answer/s:**

1. The Government's water reform package is 'Water for the Future'. The total 'Water for the Future' expenditure for on-farm infrastructure, up to 30 April 2010, is \$41 million.
2. On-farm infrastructure expenditure under 'Water for the Future' to date has occurred under the \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program.
3. In May 2009, the Government allocated \$300 million under 'Water for the Future' (from the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program), specifically for grants to irrigators in the Lachlan River Catchment and southern connected system of the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) to modernise their on-farm irrigation infrastructure and return water to the environment. In March 2010, in-principle funding of \$100 million was announced under Round One of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program, leaving \$200 million to be shared across the two remaining rounds. On-farm projects are also being developed in NSW and Queensland which have funding of up to \$300m and \$115m respectively as part of the State Priority Projects contained in the Murray-Darling Basin Reform Intergovernmental Agreement signed in July 2008. The Small Block Irrigators Exit Grant program, for the removal of irrigation infrastructure on farm, is included as an infrastructure program. This program is on target and will be nearing completion by the end of this financial year.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 134  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Efficiency Division  
**Topic:** Off Farm Infrastructure  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much has the Government spent on off-farm infrastructure projects since its election?
2. On what projects or programs has expenditure been made?
3. What targets for off-farm infrastructure projects (in value and volume) does the Government have for each remaining year of the program, including this one?
4. What water saving/infrastructure projects were committed to or identified by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform signed by Prime Minister Rudd and First Ministers of Murray-Darling Basin states and territories in July 2008?
5. What progress has been made on each of these projects? What funds have actually been expended on each of them?

**Answer/s:**

1. The Government's water reform package is 'Water for the Future'. The total expenditure under 'Water for the Future', up to 30 April 2010, on rural off-farm infrastructure is \$496.2 million.
2. The following table shows the amount of expenditure, up to 30 April 2010, on rural off-farm infrastructure under the relevant 'Water for the Future' programs.

	<b>Off- Farm Spend \$m</b>
<b>Water for the Future Program</b>	
Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program	296.7
Water Smart Australia	148.3
The Living Murray Initiative	51.2
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>496.2</b>

3. Projects providing upgrades to off-farm infrastructure are subject to rigorous assessment prior to funding being agreed for them. This applies whether they are State Priority Projects or applications directly to the Commonwealth under competitive grants programs.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

4. The State Priority infrastructure projects committed under the Murray-Darling Basin Reform Intergovernmental Agreement (MDB IGA) are shown in Attachment A.
5. The status to 30 April 2010 for each of the State Priority Projects that have infrastructure elements under the MDB IGA are included at Attachment A.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

Attachment A to QoN 134

**Water Infrastructure Projects Agreed in the Murray Darling Basin Reform  
Intergovernmental Agreement Jul 2008**

<b>State</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Maximum Funding (\$m)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>South Australia</b>	Integrated Pipelines	120	Construction of the three pipelines is now complete.
	Riverine Recovery	100	A business case for some early on ground priority works has been received and is under due diligence. The full business case is expected in June 2010.
	Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program SA	110	Program closed 8 April and applications are under assessment.
	Lower Lakes Long Term Management Plan (infrastructure elements TBC in the business case)	200	Business Case expected end May 2010. Current infrastructure spend is for the Goolwa Water Level Management project.
<b>Victoria</b>	NVIRP Full Stage 2	1000	Business Case received and under diligence assessment.
	Sunraysia Modernisation	103	Business Case received and under diligence assessment.
<b>New South Wales</b>	Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program	650	Round 1 applications announced 19 March 2010.
	Irrigation Farm Modernisation (North and South)	300	Business Case due end June 2010. Border Rivers-Gwydir pilot project underway.
	Basin Pipe (North and South)	137	Business Case due end June 2010.
	NSW Water Metering Scheme	221	Business Case due end June 2010. Metering pilot project underway.
	Healthy Floodplains	50	Business Case due end June 2010.
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	Salt Reduction Strategy	85	Business Case due end June 2010.
<b>Queensland</b>	On-Farm Water Use Efficiency Project	115	Funding announced in April for Phase 1.
	SunWater infrastructure modernisation	40	Project status under review with Queensland post due diligence.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	135
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water for the Future		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written QoN		

**Senator NASH asked:**

1. Of the \$5.2b set aside in Water for the Future for infrastructure spending, how much has actually been spent?
2. Of the money that has been spent, how much of that has actually been on infrastructure rather than administration surround infrastructure programs?
3. What percentage of infrastructure funds does the government expect will be spent directly on water savings programs as opposed to the administration of running those programs?

**Answer/s:**

1. The figure stated in Question 1 is inconsistent with the Government's programs. The *Water for the Future* initiative comprises several programs, including the \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program. The answer provided here is in the context of the whole of *Water for the Future*.

The Government's water reform package is *Water for the Future*. Some programs under *Water for the Future* are predominantly for funding water infrastructure. The total expenditure under *Water for the Future* to 30 April 2010 for rural infrastructure is \$537.2 million.

2. All of the \$537.2 million administered funds expended for water infrastructure programs under *Water for the Future* have been towards delivering the programs.
3. Under *Water for the Future* all administered funds for water infrastructure programs will be spent delivering the programs.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	136
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Menindee Lakes		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator NASH asked:**

1. Can you confirm your election promise, contained in “Labor’s national plan to tackle the water crisis”, to spend “up to \$400m to reduce evaporation and improve water efficiency at Menindee Lakes...”?
2. How much of that “up to \$400m” has been spent?
3. Of the “up to 200 billion litres” that your Menindee Lakes promise was to “return” to the Basin, how many litres have actually been returned?
4. Noting your election policy statement that Menindee “loses 426 billion litres of water in an average year”, how much of that evaporation loss has your election policy commitment stopped to date?
5. Had you and your colleagues in the NSW Labor Government completed any work on Menindee, how many extra billion litres of the recent flood flows could have been saved from loss?

**Answer/s:**

1. The Australian Government remains committed to invest up to \$400 million to reduce evaporation and improve water efficiency at Menindee Lakes; secure Broken Hill's water supply; protect the local environment and heritage; and return up to 200 gigalitres (GL) per year to the environment.

2. As of 30 April 2010, \$12.15 million has been spent on the Darling River Water Savings Project (DRWSP) Part B study and Broken Hill Managed Aquifer Recharge (BHMAR) project. These scoping studies will enable proper investigation and consultation to occur before infrastructure investment decisions at Menindee Lakes are made.

3, 4 & 5. The Government's approach is to carefully consider the issues and test the options before proceeding with infrastructure works. This entails investing in planning and investigations (the DRWSP Part B and BHMAR studies), followed by consultation with affected stakeholders and partner states, before deciding on a preferred option.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	137
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Foodbowl Stage Two		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator NASH asked:**

You commitment to provide “up to \$1b” to Victoria for its “Food Bowl Stage Two” project was based on an agreement that you made for the return of licenses that would see a value of around \$10,000 per megalitre.

1. Do you believe that this is a fair price?
2. Will this price be offered to other states in infrastructure programs?
3. Are you surprised in light of this that the Productivity Commission suggests that infrastructure investment is inefficient?

**Answers:**

1. The Commonwealth has given in-principle agreement to provide up to \$1 billion towards 90 per cent of the cost of Stage 2 of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP – formerly called the Food Bowl Modernisation Project). The NVIRP Stage 2 is expected to yield 200 GL in water savings (Long Term Cap Equivalent, not entitlement). Of the water savings achieved, half will be used for the environment by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and half will be allocated to farmers.

The cost of water savings for the project overall – about \$5,000 per megalitre Long Term Cap Equivalent – is a negotiated outcome, reflected in the 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform. The project as proposed should not only provide more water for the environment and for irrigation, but also provide irrigators with an efficient, modernised irrigation water delivery system that would enable them to operate more efficiently and adaptively.

NVIRP Stage 2 should meet the two major policy objectives of the ‘Water for the Future’ infrastructure program, which are:

- to deliver substantial and lasting returns of water to the environment to secure real improvements in river health, and
- to secure a long-term sustainable future for irrigation communities, in the context of climate change and reduced water availability into the future.



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

2. There is no predetermined price for water savings from infrastructure projects. Each project being considered for funding under 'Water for the Future' is being assessed in terms of the value for money offered by the range of benefits that it will provide.
3. The benefits flowing from investing in rural water infrastructure include benefits beyond those considered in the draft Productivity Commission report. In creating Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program (SRWUIP), the Government has broad objectives that go beyond recovering water for the environment. Investment is being principally focused on projects that:
  - deliver substantial and lasting returns of water for the environment;
  - secure a long-term future for irrigation communities; and
  - deliver value for money in the context of the first two tests.

The Department's assessment of prospective projects under SRWUIP is directed at ensuring fit-for-purpose, value for money investments which, overall, secure the strongest possible outcomes in terms of both water savings and placing irrigated agriculture onto a more sustainable footing.

From an economic perspective, the policy of moving to a more sustainable water management regime needs to include a range of mechanisms and not just the purchase of water entitlements on market. The prudent implementation of the infrastructure programs will assist in mitigating the adjustments required in the future for communities and regional economies.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	138
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	On-Farm infrastructure spend		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator NASH asked:**

Returning to infrastructure investment, in last year's Budget you announced a \$300m Southern Basin On Farm program.

1. How much of this has now been spent?
2. How much has been spent *on farm*.
3. Is it the case that you allowed six weeks for prospective delivery partners to apply, but have now been assessing those applications for some 12 weeks with no result having yet been announced? Do you not think this is absurd?

**Answer/s:**

1+2+3:

On 19 March 2010, the Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, announced in-principle funding of projects totalling \$100 million under stage one of the first round of the program.

The total Water for the Future expenditure for on-farm infrastructure as at 30 April 2010 is \$41m.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 139  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Governance Division  
**Topic:** Climate Change - Water  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much of the \$250 million promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election for modernising and repairing existing water systems in towns and cities has been allocated and expended?
2. How many projects have been completed? Please provide a breakdown of funding by project and state.

**Answer/s:**

1. As at 22 April 2010, \$152.9 million had been allocated to projects and a total of \$33.2 million had been expended from this allocation.
2. Two projects in Victoria have been completed. A breakdown of the projects is listed in the following table.

<b><i>National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns projects</i></b>	<b>Funding (\$m)</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	
Cranbourne state of the art water smart pool	5.0
Croydon Leisure Centre and Croydon Memorial Pool water reuse system	0.6

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	140
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Menindee Lakes		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

How much water has been lost from the Menindee Lakes water storage through evaporation, seepage and leakage storage since 20 November 2007?

**Answer:**

The New South Wales Government owns and operates all infrastructure at Menindee Lakes. During this period, the Menindee Lakes were in NSW Government control until 10 April 2010 when control was passed to the Murray Darling Basin Authority in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Agreement.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	141
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water Saving programs		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

How has the Government encouraged innovative water saving programs such as the River Reach program conducted by Murrumbidgee Irrigation?

**Answer/s:**

The Government is funding the River Reach project under the Water for the Future strategy. The project has entered an extension phase where Murrumbidgee Irrigation aims to trial a water exchange framework for “River Reach products” (for example, options and forward sales contracts) to enable the transfer of water to a buyer based on agreed water allocation trigger events.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	142
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Climate Change - Water		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator WORTLEY asked:**

1. What action has the Government taken to help cities prepare for the impact of climate change?
2. Can you detail what assistance the Commonwealth Government has provided to South Australia to help meet its water needs – both urban and rural?

**Answer/s:**

1. The Australian Government's 'Water for the Future' initiative is built on four priorities including assisting communities to adapt to a future scenario of reduced water availability due to climate change.

Under 'Water for the Future' the Australian Government has committed more than \$1 billion in supporting the efforts of Australian towns and cities to secure their water supplies through a range of projects in desalination, water recycling, stormwater capture and reuse, water saving and loss reduction, rainwater tanks and greywater treatment systems. These projects are funded under programs such as the: National Urban Water and Desalination Plan; the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns; the Green Precincts Fund; Strengthening Basin Communities; Water Smart Australia; and the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative.

2. The Australian Government has committed to provide over \$ 1 billion to support both urban and rural water security initiatives in South Australia.
  - Over \$530 million has been committed for urban water security projects in South Australia. This includes:
    - \$328 million for the Adelaide desalination plant under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan to deliver up to 100 gigalitres per year;
    - \$203.8 million for sixteen stormwater and wastewater recycling projects in the greater Adelaide area;
    - \$0.75 million under the Green Precincts Fund to deliver water and energy savings in the City of Onkaparinga;

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

- Up to \$1.6 million under the *Strengthening Basin Communities program Planning component*, has been committed to two SA Council consortia. The funding will assist communities in the MDB plan for a future with less water through undertaking a climate change impact assessment for water security in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, lower River Murray, and Lower Lakes, and a climate change impact assessment and emerging opportunities for the SA Murray Region;
- Up to \$1.12 million under the *Strengthening Basin Communities program Water Saving Initiatives component* awarded to the District Council of Loxton Waikerie to recycle water for non-potable applications and thereby reduce reliance on extractions from the River Murray;
- \$0.07 million for seven grants to surf life saving clubs to install rainwater tanks and/or water efficient devices and \$0.8 million for 1,651 rebates to households to install rainwater tanks or greywater treatment systems under the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative (as at 3 May 2010).
- Under the 3 June 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform, up to \$530 million was committed to South Australia to upgrade irrigation infrastructure and improve river management. Funding programs/projects include:
  - Up to \$110 million under the Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program for South Australia for private irrigators holding River Murray entitlements to upgrade infrastructure;
  - Up to \$100 million for Riverine Recovery to undertake adaptive management of floodplains and wetlands;
  - Up to \$200 million to support an enduring outcome to the environmental problems in the Coorong and the Lower Lakes; An additional \$10 million was subsequently committed for bioremediation works.
  - Up to \$120 million for pipelines to service communities previously reliant on the Lower Lakes for stock, domestic and irrigation water. These pipelines have been constructed.
- The following funding has also been committed under the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program in South Australia:
  - \$0.5 million to the Renmark Irrigation Trust under the Irrigation Modernisation Planning Assistance program for strategic irrigation modernisation planning;
  - Up to \$1.1 million for a Water Metering Testing Facility to aid with the implementation of the national non-urban water metering standards;
  - In-principle funding of \$1.7 million under the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency program to the South Australia Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board to support 21 irrigator projects to undertake works to improve their irrigation system efficiency;

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

- The Bureau of Meteorology has invested \$5.8 million in South Australia over the last 3 years through the Modernisation and Extension of Hydrologic Monitoring Systems Program.



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	143
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	National Water Commission - advice		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	120 (9/2/10)		

**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON**—Can you just clarify this. I understand that the commission does not make the recommendations or give the advice. But, if advice or opinion is sought from the commission or any other expert body about the funding of a project and the funding still goes ahead, to what extent is there some transparency in that process?

**Ms Kruk**—I think the minister read out the transparency requirements for when there is a difference of view but I think the minister is also clarifying that it is not the commission anymore.

**Senator Wong**—It would be open to me to ask the commission for advice. But if your question is about either those circumstances or circumstances where advice came from the department, which would now normally be the case under the program given that they now administer it, the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines apply. If a minister chooses to approve a grant against the advice they have to disclose that to the minister for finance and provide a brief summary of the reasons for that.

**Senator XENOPHON**—But it is not publicly disclosed at this stage?

**Senator Wong**—I have to say that I do not recall to what extent Finance makes those public or whether those can be ascertained.

**Ms Kruk**—The reason I am hesitating is that I do not remember it occurring in my time at all, so we might get a bit of advice on it.

**Senator XENOPHON**—Perhaps if it is on notice.

**Ms Kruk**—Yes.

**Senator XENOPHON**—I do not know if the minister has a view that it would be prudent in those cases where funding occurs against the advice of the department for it to be publicly disclosed.

**Senator Wong**—I would suggest that that is probably a question that should go to Mr Tanner's representative because he is the responsible minister for the reporting framework and the guidelines.

**Senator XENOPHON**—Okay, thank you. Could that be taken on notice?

**Ms Kruk**—Yes.

**Senator Wong**—We can transfer the question.

**Answer:**

The Commonwealth Grant Guidelines were published in July 2009. Questions about implementation of the Guidelines should be directed to the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	144
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water for the Future – national stormwater funding		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

What funding was budgeted for this program in 2009-10, what expenditure has been made this financial year, and against what costs or grants?

**Answer/s:**

Over the period 2009-10 to 2012-13, there is \$200 million allocated from the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan for stormwater harvesting and reuse projects. On 2 November 2009, Minister Wong announced \$86,906,000 for thirteen stormwater harvesting and reuse projects under the first funding round. As at 7 May 2010, payments totalling \$3,439,200 have been made for the following stormwater harvesting and reuse projects:

- \$250,000 to Queensland South Bank Corporation for the South Bank stormwater capture and reuse project.
- \$3,189,200 million to South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation for seven projects.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 145  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Governance Division  
**Topic:** Surf lifesaving clubs  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How many surf life saving clubs have had rainwater tanks installed under the National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative: Surf Life Saving Clubs?
2. Please provide a table which outlines which clubs have received rainwater tanks, when they were installed, what federal electorate the club is located in, and the cost of the tank.
3. Are grants still being made?

**Answers:**

1. As at 26 February 2010, 48 grants have been approved for surf life saving clubs to install rainwater tanks and/or water efficiency devices and/or conduct a water efficiency audit. As at 26 February 2010, the Department has received 13 completion reports.
2. Please see the table below.
3. Applications for grants closed on 31 January 2010.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Federal Electorate</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Anglesea	Rainwater tanks	Corangamite	\$8,845.45
Bermagui	Rainwater tanks	Eden-Monaro	\$10,000.00
Black Rock	Rainwater tanks	Goldstein	\$9,119.09
Bonbeach	Water efficiency audit	Isaacs	\$318.18
Bondi	Rainwater tanks	Wentworth	\$9,870.00
Bulli	Rainwater tank	Cunningham	\$10,000.00
Burning Palms	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Cook	\$4,907.25
Cairns	Rainwater tanks	Leichhardt	\$10,000.00
Chiton Rocks	Rainwater tank	Hindmarsh	\$10,000.00
City of Bunbury	Water efficient devices	Forrest	\$9,571.00
Clovelly	Recycled water to toilets/taps	Kingsford Smith	\$10,000.00
Coogee Beach	Water harvesting, storage and greywater recycling	Fremantle	\$10,000.00
Coolum	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$9,323.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Club</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Federal Electorate</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Cottesloe	Water efficient devices	Curtin	\$8,729.00
Dicky Beach	Water efficient devices	Fisher	\$10,000.00
Emu Park	Water saving plumbing	Capricornia	\$1,200.00
Grange	Water efficient showers and toilets	Hindmarsh	\$9,993.00
Gerringong	Rainwater tank	Gilmore	\$9,000.00
Henley	Water efficient devices	Hindmarsh	\$10,000.00
Jan Juc	Rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Long Reef	Water efficient devices	Mackellar	\$9,664.55
Maroochydore	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$7,486.00
Maroubra	Rainwater tanks	Kingsford Smith	\$8,963.64
Mentone	Rainwater tanks	Isaacs	\$10,000.00
Mermaid Beach	Rainwater tanks	Moncreiff	\$9,900.00
Miami Beach	Rainwater tank	Moncreiff	\$9,090.91
Minnie Water-Wooli	Rainwater tanks	Cowper	\$10,000.00
Mona Vale	Water efficient devices	Mackellar	\$9,620.00
Mudjimba	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$7,630.00
Nambucca Heads	Slim line rainwater tank	Cowper	\$9,081.82
Newport	Rainwater tanks	Mackellar	\$9,090.00
North Haven	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Port Adelaide	\$10,000.00
Ocean Grove	New showers	Corangamite	\$9,109.09
Point Lonsdale	Santa Casa Beach rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Semaphore	Water efficient appliances	Hindmarsh	\$5,636.36
Shellharbour	Rainwater tanks	Throsby	\$10,000.00
South Maroubra	New showers	Kingsford Smith	\$10,000.00
South West Rocks	Rainwater tanks	Cowper	\$10,000.00
Surfers Paradise	Water efficient devices	Moncreiff	\$10,000.00
Swansea Belmont	Rainwater tanks	Shortland	\$9,090.91
Taree Old Bar	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Lyne	\$10,000.00
Thirroul	Rainwater tank	Cunningham	\$10,000.00
Torquay	Rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Ulverstone	Water efficient taps, showers and toilets	Braddon	\$6,672.73
Venus Bay	Rainwater tank	McMillan	\$9,068.18
Warrnambool	Rainwater tanks	Wannon	\$9,272.73
Whale Beach	Rainwater tank	Mackellar	\$10,000.00
Wye River	Rainwater tank	Maribyrnong	\$4,808.91

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	146
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water for the Future – national stormwater funding		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator WORTLEY asked:**

Regarding the stormwater harvesting initiative – which areas have received offers under the first round of funding and when will applications for the second round close?

**Answers:**

The areas to receive funding for urban stormwater harvesting and reuse projects as a result of the first round of funding are the: greater metropolitan area of Adelaide, South Australia; South Bank in Brisbane, Queensland; and Ballarat, Geelong, Kalkallo and Clayton South in Victoria.

Applications for the second round of funding for urban stormwater harvesting and reuse projects closed on 10 February 2010.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 147  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Governance Division  
**Topic:** Surf Life saving clubs – rainwater tanks  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How many rainwater tanks have been installed in surf clubs?
2. How many surf clubs are yet to have their rainwater tank installed? Please provide a breakdown of number and value by electorate.

**Answers:**

1. As at 26 February 2010, 48 grants have been approved for surf life saving clubs to install rainwater tanks and/or water efficiency devices and/or conduct a water efficiency audit. As at 26 February 2010, the Department has received 13 completion reports.
2. The table below provides a list of the grants approved for surf life saving clubs by electorate.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Federal Electorate</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Anglesea	Rainwater tanks	Corangamite	\$8,845.45
Bermagui	Rainwater tanks	Eden-Monaro	\$10,000.00
Black Rock	Rainwater tanks	Goldstein	\$9,119.09
Bonbeach	Water efficiency audit	Isaacs	\$318.18
Bondi	Rainwater tanks	Wentworth	\$9,870.00
Bulli	Rainwater tank	Cunningham	\$10,000.00
Burning Palms	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Cook	\$4,907.25
Cairns	Rainwater tanks	Leichhardt	\$10,000.00
Chiton Rocks	Rainwater tank	Hindmarsh	\$10,000.00
City of Bunbury	Water efficient devices	Forrest	\$9,571.00
Clovelly	Recycled water to toilets/taps	Kingsford Smith	\$10,000.00
Coogee Beach	Water harvesting, storage and greywater recycling	Fremantle	\$10,000.00
Coolum	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$9,323.00
Cottesloe	Water efficient devices	Curtin	\$8,729.00
Dicky Beach	Water efficient devices	Fisher	\$10,000.00
Emu Park	Water saving plumbing	Capricornia	\$1,200.00
Grange	Water efficient showers and toilets	Hindmarsh	\$9,993.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Club</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Federal Electorate</b>	<b>Grant</b>
Gerringong	Rainwater tank	Gilmore	\$9,000.00
Henley	Water efficient devices	Hindmarsh	\$10,000.00
Jan Juc	Rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Long Reef	Water efficient devices	Mackellar	\$9,664.55
Maroochydore	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$7,486.00
Maroubra	Rainwater tanks	Kingsford Smith	\$8,963.64
Mentone	Rainwater tanks	Isaacs	\$10,000.00
Mermaid Beach	Rainwater tanks	Moncreiff	\$9,900.00
Miami Beach	Rainwater tank	Moncreiff	\$9,090.91
Minnie Water-Wooli	Rainwater tanks	Cowper	\$10,000.00
Mona Vale	Water efficient devices	Mackellar	\$9,620.00
Mudjimba	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Fairfax	\$7,630.00
Nambucca Heads	Slim line rainwater tank	Cowper	\$9,081.82
Newport	Rainwater tanks	Mackellar	\$9,090.00
North Haven	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Port Adelaide	\$10,000.00
Ocean Grove	New showers	Corangamite	\$9,109.09
Point Lonsdale	Santa Casa Beach rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Semaphore	Water efficient appliances	Hindmarsh	\$5,636.36
Shellharbour	Rainwater tanks	Throsby	\$10,000.00
South Maroubra	New showers	Kingsford Smith	\$10,000.00
South West Rocks	Rainwater tanks	Cowper	\$10,000.00
Surfers Paradise	Water efficient devices	Moncreiff	\$10,000.00
Swansea Belmont	Rainwater tanks	Shortland	\$9,090.91
Taree Old Bar	Rainwater tank and water efficient devices	Lyne	\$10,000.00
Thirroul	Rainwater tank	Cunningham	\$10,000.00
Torquay	Rainwater tank	Corangamite	\$10,000.00
Ulverstone	Water efficient taps, showers and toilets	Braddon	\$6,672.73
Venus Bay	Rainwater tank	McMillan	\$9,068.18
Warrnambool	Rainwater tanks	Wannon	\$9,272.73
Whale Beach	Rainwater tank	Mackellar	\$10,000.00
Wye River	Rainwater tank	Maribyrnong	\$4,808.91

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

**Outcome:** 4 **Question No:** 148  
**Program:** 4.1  
**Division/Agency:** Water Governance Division  
**Topic:** Green Precincts – Election commitment  
**Hansard Page ECA:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How many projects have been completed under the \$15 million Green Precincts Policy promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election?
2. Please provide a breakdown of funding for each project.

**Answers:**

1. As at 26 February 2010, one project under the Green Precincts Fund has been completed.
2. Thirteen projects have been awarded funding as described in the following table.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Approved</b>
Australian National University	Education Precincts for the Future	\$1,032,980
Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE	Charleston Road Campus Redevelopment	\$724,289
Blue Mountains City Council	Blue Mountains Sustainable Precinct	\$1,500,000
Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies	CERES Zero Emissions by 2012	\$1,150,011
City of Onkaparinga	Woodcroft Green Precinct – Combined Library and Neighbourhood Centre Demonstration Site	\$750,000
Clean Energy for Eternity	Bega Valley Solar Farm Feasibility Study	\$100,000
Essendon Football Club	Windy Hill Green Precincts Project	\$1,500,000
Launceston City Council	Greening Inveresk Precinct – Towards Water and Energy Sustainability	\$788,000
Manningham City Council	Doncaster Hill Green Civic Precinct – Sustainability Education Hub	\$1,500,000
Shire of Peppermint Grove	The Grove Library Project	\$1,500,000
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	Sydney Harbour Green Precincts Project	\$861,500
Sydney Theatre Company	Greening the Wharf	\$1,200,000
Wide Bay Water Corporation	An Island is not an Island – A Green Precinct in the Great Barrier Reef	\$1,290,000



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	149
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Desal, water recycling and stormwater capture projects		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much of \$1 billion for urban desalination, water recycling and stormwater capture projects promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election has been allocated and expended?
2. How many projects have been completed? Please provide a breakdown of funding by project and state.

**Answers:**

1. Under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan, \$618.15 million has been allocated and \$105.09 million has been expended as at 7 May 2010.
2. The Australian Government committed \$30.15 million to the Glenelg to Adelaide parkland water recycling project in South Australia. The water recycling scheme was launched on 11 January 2010 and by March 2010 was fully operational.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	150
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water recycling		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. What progress has been made towards reaching Rudd Labor's 2007 election target of recycling 30 per cent of wastewater by 2015? Does the Department consider that it is on track to meet this commitment?

**Answer/s:**

1. A 2008 report identified that Australia was likely to recycle about 24.6 percent of wastewater and stormwater by 2015. Further research is being commissioned to update performance against the target given the number of recycled water projects that are being funded through 'Water for the Future' programs. This includes new projects that are funded from the \$200 million stormwater harvesting and reuse element of the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	151
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Desalination plant – Spencer Gulf		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How much of the \$160 million committed by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election to build a desalination plant in the upper Spencer Gulf has been allocated and expended?
2. What is the current state of this project and what proportion of the stated 11 billion litre water demand has been removed from the Murray?

**Answers:**

Funding has not been expended on the proposal to build a desalination plant in the upper Spencer Gulf as the South Australian Government decided that it would not be proceeding with the project.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	152
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Governance Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	National Rainwater and grey water initiative		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How many households have taken up rebates to help install rainwater tanks or grey water pipes under the Government's \$250 million National Rainwater/greywater plan?
2. What is the value of these installations? Please provide a breakdown by electorate.

**Answers:**

1. As at 3 May 2010, rebates have been approved for 7,735 households to install rainwater tanks or greywater systems.
2. The total value of these rebates is \$3,703,300. See attached table for 7,549 rebates for which electorate information can be readily confirmed.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

<b>STATE</b>	<b>ELECTORATE</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>\$ VALUE OF REBATES</b>
<b>ACT</b>	Canberra	99	\$48,300.00
	Fraser	53	\$25,700.00
<b>NSW</b>	Banks	24	\$11,500.00
	Barton	10	\$4,200.00
	Bennelong	20	\$9,700.00
	Berowra	39	\$18,600.00
	Blaxland	19	\$8,700.00
	Bradfield	30	\$14,500.00
	Calare	23	\$11,200.00
	Charlton	60	\$28,600.00
	Chifley	98	\$46,600.00
	Cook	45	\$21,500.00
	Cowper	50	\$24,100.00
	Cunningham	97	\$45,700.00
	Dobell	249	\$118,000.00
	Eden-Monaro	29	\$14,300.00
	Farrer	23	\$11,300.00
	Fowler	22	\$10,600.00
	Gilmore	69	\$32,500.00
	Grayndler	35	\$15,700.00
	Greenway	52	\$25,200.00
	Hughes	45	\$21,500.00
	Hume	23	\$11,000.00
	Hunter	17	\$8,300.00
	Kingsford Smith	36	\$15,400.00
	Lindsay	160	\$76,100.00
	Lowe	21	\$9,200.00
	Lyne	108	\$52,300.00
	Macarthur	15	\$7,400.00
	Mackellar	22	\$10,500.00
Macquarie	132	\$63,500.00	
Mitchell	46	\$21,900.00	
New England	116	\$57,000.00	

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

	Newcastle	37	\$16,800.00
	North Sydney	26	\$12,000.00
	Page	71	\$34,500.00
	Parkes	67	\$33,000.00
	Parramatta	46	\$22,200.00
	Paterson	50	\$24,200.00
	Prospect	57	\$26,500.00
	Reid	23	\$10,800.00
	Richmond	61	\$29,500.00
	Riverina	16	\$8,000.00
	Robertson	209	\$99,700.00
	Shortland	156	\$73,300.00
	Sydney	9	\$3,900.00
	Throsby	105	\$49,500.00
	Warringah	25	\$11,700.00
	Watson	18	\$8,200.00
	Wentworth	18	\$8,100.00
	Werriwa	23	\$10,900.00
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	1	\$500.00
<b>QLD</b>	Blair	24	\$11,600.00
	Bonner	49	\$22,900.00
	Bowman	17	\$8,100.00
	Brisbane	55	\$26,200.00
	Capricornia	9	\$4,500.00
	Dawson	5	\$2,400.00
	Dickson	10	\$4,800.00
	Fadden	10	\$4,700.00
	Fairfax	15	\$7,200.00
	Fisher	16	\$7,800.00
	Flynn	29	\$14,400.00
	Forde	7	\$3,500.00
	Griffith	54	\$25,500.00
	Groom	77	\$37,800.00
	Herbert	2	\$1,000.00
	Hinkler	24	\$11,800.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

	Kennedy	20	\$9,800.00
	Leichhardt	9	\$4,400.00
	Lilley	59	\$28,200.00
	Longman	8	\$4,000.00
	Maranoa	31	\$15,000.00
	Mcpherson	10	\$5,000.00
	Moncrieff	7	\$3,200.00
	Moreton	50	\$23,300.00
	Oxley	46	\$21,500.00
	Petrie	39	\$18,500.00
	Rankin	13	\$5,900.00
	Ryan	46	\$21,500.00
	Wide Bay	25	\$12,100.00
<b>SA</b>	Adelaide	202	\$97,300.00
	Barker	67	\$32,800.00
	Boothby	252	\$122,200.00
	Grey	87	\$43,100.00
	Hindmarsh	179	\$83,600.00
	Kingston	124	\$60,300.00
	Makin	142	\$68,200.00
	Maranoa	1	\$500.00
	Mayo	148	\$73,500.00
	Port Adelaide	128	\$61,600.00
	Sturt	166	\$79,300.00
	Wakefield	117	\$57,100.00
<b>TAS</b>	Bass	12	\$5,900.00
	Braddon	12	\$5,800.00
	Denison	4	\$2,000.00
	Franklin	6	\$3,000.00
	Lyons	9	\$4,500.00
<b>VIC</b>	Aston	74	\$35,600.00
	Ballarat	66	\$32,600.00
	Batman	72	\$34,300.00
	Bendigo	15	\$7,500.00
	Bruce	46	\$22,200.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

	Calwell	11	\$5,100.00
	Casey	100	\$49,200.00
	Chisholm	90	\$43,000.00
	Corangamite	44	\$21,500.00
	Corio	24	\$11,600.00
	Deakin	99	\$46,900.00
	Dunkley	55	\$26,300.00
	Flinders	58	\$28,500.00
	Gellibrand	30	\$14,100.00
	Gippsland	20	\$9,800.00
	Goldstein	63	\$28,400.00
	Gorton	18	\$8,600.00
	Grey	1	\$500.00
	Higgins	58	\$28,200.00
	Holt	42	\$19,700.00
	Hotham	56	\$26,500.00
	Indi	17	\$8,300.00
	Isaacs	48	\$22,900.00
	Jagajaga	68	\$33,100.00
	Kooyong	99	\$48,500.00
	La Trobe	64	\$30,700.00
	Lalor	16	\$7,500.00
	Mallee	104	\$51,700.00
	Maribyrnong	17	\$8,200.00
	Mcewen	41	\$20,200.00
	Mcmillan	37	\$17,900.00
	Melbourne	31	\$14,700.00
	Melbourne Ports	27	\$12,900.00
	Menzies	65	\$31,600.00
	Murray	13	\$6,200.00
	Scullin	18	\$8,000.00
	Wannon	22	\$10,800.00
	Wills	54	\$25,700.00
<b>WA</b>	Brand	23	\$10,800.00
	Canning	56	\$25,700.00



**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, May 2010

Cowan	12	\$5,400.00
Curtin	34	\$15,600.00
Forrest	36	\$17,000.00
Fremantle	33	\$15,200.00
Hasluck	28	\$13,000.00
Kalgoorlie	7	\$3,400.00
Maranoa	1	\$500.00
Moore	23	\$10,100.00
O'Connor	34	\$16,600.00
Pearce	66	\$31,800.00
Perth	19	\$8,700.00
Stirling	16	\$7,400.00
Swan	20	\$8,400.00
Tangney	31	\$13,900.00

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	153
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Reform Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water for rivers - Snowy River		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator SIEWERT**

The Commonwealth Government is a co-signatory to the Snowy legislation and agreements and has contributed \$125 Million of taxpayers money to Water for Rivers.

1. What action has the Government taken in response to the NSW Government's unilateral release of the Final Report of the first Five-Year Review of Snowy Water Licence which didn't address the failure of the current Licence provisions to deliver the legislated scheduled increased flows and improved environmental objectives to the Snowy River?
2. In particular what action does the Government intend to take to ensure that NSW Government addresses the critical environmental needs of the Snowy River, specifically major increased flows and the release of flows via Mowamba weir as well as Jindabyne Dam, following the closing of public submissions to the proposed variations to the Snowy Water Licence on 29th January?
3. The NSW Government has repeatedly justified the diversion of approximately 99% of the Mowamba River into Jindabyne Dam in order to drive the mini-hydro at the base of Jindabyne Dam wall. Is the Government aware that the Jindabyne Dam is a green power accredited generator?
4. Will the Government ensure that the green power accreditation of the Jindabyne Dam mini-hydro is reviewed by the appropriate authority for its compliance with Green Power guidelines requiring that a green power generator return a net environmental benefit?

**Answers:**

1. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts provided a submission to the New South Wales Department of Water, on the proposed variations to the Snowy Water Licence during the consultation process.
2. The Australian Government intends to continue to work with the New South Wales and Victorian Governments to deliver on the commitments made through the Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed.
3. Yes.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

4. The mini-hydro generator at Jindabyne Dam was assessed against the criteria set by the 'National GreenPower Accreditation Program' in 2005 and accredited under the scheme. Following representations from the community, the National GreenPower Steering Group reviewed the accreditation of the Jindabyne Dam mini-hydro station and following an examination of the evidence provided, concluded that the station met all criteria for accreditation and no action was necessary. Each GreenPower Provider undergoes an annual technical audit by an independent auditor to ensure continued compliance with the accreditation criteria.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	154
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Reform Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Tuggerah Lakes – election commitment		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

How much of the \$20 million funding promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election to restore the Tuggerah Lakes has been allocated and expended? Please provide a breakdown of stated environmental objectives and results recorded.

**Answers:**

To date \$5.66 million of the \$20 million has been committed through an initial contract with Wyong Shire Council in strategies aimed at improving the water quality in the Tuggerah Lakes. Of these funds, \$3.66 million was allocated in the financial year 2008/09 and \$2 million in 2009/10. A further \$3 million is planned to be contracted for works by the end of the 2009/10 financial year. Wyong Shire Council has met all project milestones to date.

Initial works funded under the projects included revegetation of over one hectare of saltmarsh, four kilometers of streambank rehabilitation and preparation of Wetland and Saltmarsh Management plans. Council has indicated that the revegetation and rehabilitation projects have been commenced and will be completed on schedule in 2009/10. Outcomes for the project at the end of the current financial year will be at least 6km of streambank rehabilitated and 1.7ha of saltmarsh revegetated.

Education and community behaviour change programs are being implemented in conjunction with the streambank rehabilitation program. A wetlands management plan has been prepared and there has been development of training and education for council staff involved in the works.

In the 2009/10 financial year period, Council has also sought, and been granted through a contract variation, approval to reallocate \$597,100 of funds to be under-expended this financial year, through efficiencies in delivery, to enhance other aspects of the agreed project.

Further funding for this project will be allocated under a final contract to be negotiated with the Council this financial year.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

Implementation of elements of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan will occur over five years and seek to improve the water quality and ecology of the three coastal lagoons comprising Tuggerah Lakes. The restoration work should improve ecosystem functions of the lakes by managing increasing sediment and nutrient loads through the management of streambank erosion, stormwater runoff and degraded foreshores.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>Outcome:</b>	4	<b>Question No:</b>	155
<b>Program:</b>	4.1		
<b>Division/Agency:</b>	Water Efficiency Division		
<b>Topic:</b>	Water for the Future		
<b>Hansard Page ECA:</b>	Written Question on Notice		

**Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:**

1. How many water-saving infrastructure projects have been developed, funded and built in the Murray-Darling Basin by this Federal Government? Please provide details of all projects completed?

**Answer/s:**

1. Commonwealth infrastructure commitments in the Murray-Darling Basin under 'Water for the Future' are shown at Attachment A.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

Attachment A to QoN 155

**Infrastructure Projects in the Murray Darling Basin**

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN</b>	<b>Water for the Future Funding Commitment (up to \$m)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program (SRWUIP)</b>		
Integrated Pipelines Project (Lower Lakes) (SA)	120	Construction Complete
Riverine Recovery Project (SA)	100	Refer QON134
Lower Lakes and Coorong Recovery Project (SA)	200	Construction complete on early works for Goolwa
Private Irrigation Infrastructure Program (SA)	110	Refer QON134
Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) Stage 2 (Vic)	1,000	Refer QON134
Sunraysia Modernisation Project (Vic)	103	Refer QON134
On-Farm Water Use Efficiency (Qld)	115	Refer QON134
SunWater Infrastructure Modernisation Project (Qld)	40	Refer QON134
Irrigation Farm Modernisation (NSW)	300	Pilot project underway
Basin Pipe - Stock and Domestic (NSW)	137	Refer QON134
Water Metering Scheme (NSW)	221	Refer QON134
Healthy Floodplains Project (NSW)	50	Refer QON134
NSW - Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (NSW)	650	Refer QON134
Salt Reduction Strategy (ACT)	85	Refer QON134
Menindee Lakes Project	400	Investigation Studies underway
Warren-Nyngan Pipeline	12	Project scoping
Lithgow (Delta Electricity) Recycled Water Project	4	Project scoping
Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline Project (jointly funded with Water Smart Australia – see below)	99	Construction Complete
On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program	300	Round 1 announced
On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Programs	5.6	Underway
Strengthening Basin Communities Phase 2	180	Round 1 announced
Hume Dam Remedial Works	10	Underway
<b>National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns</b>		
Securing Water for the Australian National Botanic Gardens	1.5	Underway
Walgett - Water Supply and Sewerage	4.2	Finalising Implementation Plan
Wilcannia - Water Supply and Sewerage	2.2	Finalising Implementation Plan
<b>The Living Murray Initiative</b>		
Victoria - Shepparton Irrigation Area Modernisation	25	Near completion
Victoria - Lake Mokoan	11	Near completion
NSW Water Recovery Package B (infrastructure element)	15	Construction complete

**Infrastructure Projects in the Murray Darling Basin (continued)**

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice

**Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio**

Additional Estimates, February 2010

<b>INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN</b>	<b>Water for the Future Funding Commitment (\$m)</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Water Smart Australia</b>		
Canberra Integrated Urban Waterways (ACT)	7.7	Underway
NSW Hydrometric Network Expansion	6.0	Underway
Pipeline NSW	3.5	Underway
Coleambally Water Smart Australia Project (NSW)	12.5	Underway
Lake Brewster Water Efficiency Program - Lachlan Catchment NSW	7.5	Underway
Southern Tablelands Water Commitment: Tumut Golf Course Effluent Re-use Scheme (NSW)	0.5	Construction Complete
Southern Tablelands Water Commitment: Nimmitabel Water Storage Project (NSW)	0.5	Underway
Restoring Flows to the Wetlands of the Upper South East of South Australia (SA)	7.7	Underway
Remote Reading of Irrigation Water Meters (SA)	1.6	Underway
Bendigo Goulburn - Campaspe pipeline Link Project (VIC)	2.5	Construction Complete
Bendigo -Recycled Water project (VIC)	1.9	Construction Complete
Wimmera Mallee Pipeline (VIC) (original funding under WSA from 2007-08. Project cost increase funded through SRWUIP – see above)	90.5	Construction Complete