



MEDIA RELEASE

Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Minister for Climate Change and Water

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MURRAY-DARLING BASIN STATES SIGN ON WATER REFORM

A key milestone for the sustainable future of the Murray-Darling Basin was achieved today with the signing of Water Management Partnership Agreements with New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said the Agreements signed between the Australian Government and the Murray-Darling Basin States and the ACT paved the way for improved water resource management and funding initiatives under the July 2008 Intergovernmental Agreement on Murray-Darling Basin Reform.

A number of programs and projects have commenced and received federal funding while these Agreements have been finalised.

“Under these Agreements, the Basin States will undertake a series of water reforms to ensure the sustainable use of Basin water resources, and help Basin communities adapt to the impacts of climate change,” Senator Wong said.

“The Water Management Partnership Agreement with South Australia has already been in November 2009.

“The Agreements signed today with NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT now formalises the relationship with all of the Murray-Darling Basin States and Territory governments, setting out the terms of the Australian Government’s \$3.7 billion commitment to fund significant state-based water infrastructure projects in Basin.”

Funding has been provided from the Rudd Government’s \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* initiative.

“With ongoing drought in some parts of the Basin, and the emerging effects of climate change, we face a monumental challenge in the Murray-Darling Basin,” Senator Wong said.

“However, the Australian Government is getting on with the job of preparing Australia for a predicted future with less water.

“This agreement sets the framework for our investment in irrigation infrastructure to help our farmers and regional communities and protect food security.”

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