



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Senator Penny Wong**  
*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

**Amanda Rishworth MP**  
*Member for Kingston*

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### **MCLAREN VALE IRRIGATORS TO BENEFIT FROM RECYCLED WATER PROJECT**

McLaren Vale irrigators will be able to reduce their reliance on mains water through a project to receive \$3.5 million from the Rudd Government.

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, said the project would provide recycled water to almost 120 irrigators in McLaren Vale and improve water quality in Gulf St Vincent.

“This project aims to substitute up to 780 million litres of mains water with recycled water from the Christies Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant each year,” Senator Wong said.

“Using the recycled water will benefit local irrigators, reduce demand on drinking water supplies and reduce the amount of wastewater discharged to Gulf St Vincent.”

The McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association will distribute the funding to small and medium-sized irrigators in the form of grants to cover the \$11,000 cost to connect to the Willunga Basin Water Company pipeline. Funds will also be available to cover half of the \$1,100 per megalitre recycled water licence fee that is charged over a period of six years.

The grants package builds on work already underway as part of the Rudd Government-funded *Water Proofing the South* project to increase storage capacity at Willunga and Aldinga dams and provide increased recycled water for irrigation in McLaren Vale.

Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth, welcomed the funding announcement, saying it would improve water security for local businesses and reduce the use of local drinking water supplies.

“This funding will make it possible for small and medium-sized irrigators to connect to the recycled water system, where previously it would have been too expensive for these small businesses,” Ms Rishworth said.

“Delivering on this election commitment is a great outcome for Kingston.”

The McLaren Vale project is part of the Rudd Government’s \$12.9 billion *Water for the Future* plan to secure the long-term water supply of all Australians.

*Water for the Future* is built on four key priorities: taking action on climate change, using water wisely, securing water supplies and supporting healthy rivers.

Funding for the McLaren Vale project is drawn from the \$254.8 million *National Water*

*Security Plan for Cities and Towns*, a key election commitment to fund practical projects like pipelines, water saving infrastructure and water treatment plants.

In total, the Rudd Government is investing \$38 million in innovative water projects in the electorate of Kingston.

Small to medium size irrigators should contact the McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association for further information on accessing grants.