



Senator the Hon Don Farrell

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water

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LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SPORTING CLUBS TO BENEFIT FROM STORMWATER HARVESTING

School and sporting club fields in the City of Onkaparinga south of Adelaide will be kept green with water from the newly-completed Christie Creek stormwater irrigation system.

The Australian Government provided \$12 million in funding to the \$15 million project, which has boosted the appeal of the popular Christie Creek area as a community destination and will significantly improve the health of the waterway.

At a ceremony celebrating the completion of construction today, Parliamentary Secretary for Urban Water, Senator Don Farrell, said the award-winning project is a showcase that will inform future water-sensitive urban design projects in Australia.

“Almost 40 school ovals, sports fields and council reserves in the Christie Beach and Morphett Vale areas have been connected to the stormwater irrigation system,” he said.

“This means recycled water will be available to meet their irrigation needs.

“The harvesting of stormwater through wetlands, storage and distribution networks has the capacity to supply up to 850ML of stormwater for reuse to the Christie Creek area. This will reduce the demand on scarce freshwater supplies and improve the amenity of recreational areas.”

Senator Farrell was joined by Federal Member for Kingston Amanda Rishworth and City of Onkaparinga Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg to turn on the stormwater irrigation system tap.

Ms Rishworth said the project not only provides water for irrigation but also improves flood risk mitigation and had environmental benefits for areas around Christie Creek.

“In addition to the benefits to local ovals and wetlands, the Christie Creek upgrade will greatly benefit the nearby ocean ecosystems, including fragile seagrass communities and reefs, located in Gulf St Vincent by reducing the volume of effluent and stormwater discharge,” Ms Rishworth said.

“The Australian Government, through the *Water for the Future* initiative, has allocated \$34.5 million to the *Water Proofing the South* program – including \$12 million dedicated to this fantastic Christie Creek Upgrade project.”

More information on the *Water Proofing the South* program can be found at www.onkaparingacity.com/onka/living_here/our_environment/water_management.jsp