

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor

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For immediate release

Media Release

Securing Our Water Future – National Water Week 2009, October 18 - 24

National Water Week, this year being held from 18-24 October, is an annual event held nationally to increase awareness and knowledge of water and wastewater in the Australian community.

This year's National Water Week theme – *Securing Our Water Future* – draws attention to the importance of protecting and restoring our water sources.

In the face of climate uncertainty, we need to ensure that we have adequate, safe water supplies for critical human needs. We also need water for agriculture with sufficient water left for the environment.

In Tasmania an investment of about \$1 billion in capital projects will be needed over the next decade to ensure that our vital water and wastewater infrastructure keeps pace with growth and development and meets community expectations.

In southern Tasmania water and wastewater services are receiving a major overhaul, with the recent water reforms providing for a \$41.84million investment program in the 2009/2010 financial year to upgrade existing infrastructure and develop new projects.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of Southern Water Russell Fox said the availability of effective water and wastewater treatment services has a direct impact on the health and well-being of the community, as well as on land use planning and economic development.

“Southern Water’s 2009/2010 capital works program will help remove boil water notices, improve water quality and increase water storage capacity.

“The program will also lead to improved processing of wastewater, sustainable water re-use and positive environmental outcomes,” Mr Fox said.

Southern Water’s capital works program for 2009/2010 includes major projects across the region, with \$6.1 million allocated to extending the South East Tasmania Recycled Water Scheme, \$3.2 million dedicated to the construction of a dam and pipeline for the Swansea Water Project and \$2.9 million to be invested in stage one of the Lauderdale Sewerage Scheme.

National Water Week is hosted by the Australian Water Association in partnership with the National Water Commission. For more information please visit www.nationalwaterweek.com.au.

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Media Contact: For further information please contact Southern Water's media contact, **Errin Price** on **6233 9667**.