



14 September 2009

Greater Adelaide's water secure says Minister

The State Government's "water for good" plan will ensure that Greater Adelaide will have sufficient water to meet forecast demand to 2050 and beyond.

Speaking at the centenary AGM of the Gawler ALP last night (Monday) the Minister for Environment and Conservation the Hon Jay Weatherill said that the plan was underpinned by four key strategies that included recycling more stormwater and wastewater, desalination, managing water use more effectively and increasing the capacity of our catchment areas.

Mr Weatherill told the meeting that "by 2013 we will be harvesting 20 gigalitres of stormwater per year – almost double the amount of stormwater we currently harvest."

"By this time we will also have the capacity to recycle 45% of wastewater from urban areas of the State" he said.

"And of course, by 2011 –just over a year away – we will be producing the first water from our desalination plant."

"The desal plant will provide 100 gigalitres a year – which is half of Adelaide's annual needs."

Mr Weatherill outlined the history of the management of the River Murray highlighting that it took the states thirteen years of negotiation before they managed to agree on how the Murray Darling system would be used and allocated.

"These discussions had started in 1902 – and they would not be completed until 1915." Mr Weatherill said.

Mr Weatherill reassured the meeting that the State Government was serious about the High Court challenge to ensure that the "conservation" of the River Murray.

" Let there be no mistake, unless there is a substantial change in position by the upstream states in relation to their overuse of the water in the Murray, the Rann Government **will** proceed with the challenge." said Mr Weatherill.

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