



## *Media Statement*

21 May 2008

### **Water industry innovation in focus at inaugural WA conference**

It is no exaggeration to say that water – and particularly its use and availability as a resource – is one of the biggest topics on the national if not the global agenda.

Spurred by climate change and drought, and the issues surrounding the Murray-Darling system, security of water supply has risen to the forefront of the agenda.

Western Australia has its unique challenges in regard to ensuring a sustainable supply of water to its natural environment, community and industry.

*WA Water Innovation 2008* straddles the advancement of research into social and economic benefits for our state.

Its focus is on the innovations – technological, environmental, social – needed to generate the solutions required for tackling the state, national and global issue.

*WA Water Innovation 2008* – a conference organised by the Western Australian government's Department of Water, will provide a one day overview of the state of innovation in water in Western Australia.

Director General of the Department of Water Kim Taylor said this reflected the state's priorities in stimulating innovation to ensure this precious and limited resource is available now and into the future.

"Western Australia is becoming internationally recognised as a leader in water innovation," Mr Taylor said.

"Innovative research over the coming decade will ensure we can face present and future challenges with the right information.

"WA Water Innovation 2008 recognises the work undertaken already, and more importantly the work about to get underway.

"The seven presentations on research undertaken under the auspices of the Premier's Water Foundation have intrinsic links with research already underway in the department, research which is part of our core business."

*WA Water Innovation 2008* recognises that the overall trend in planning for total water allocations is for the reduction of reliance upon catchment water sources.



Department of Water  
Government of Western Australia

“The Department of Water informs the Government and the community on the quantity, quality, use and availability of the state’s water resources. We develop water industry policy to ensure security of supply,” Mr Taylor said.

“In WA annual rainfalls have fallen 10 per cent during the past 35 years.

“In Perth over that same period stream flows have decreased more than 64 per cent.

“As water is the critical link between the climate system and human society, climate change adaptation strategies targeting the water sector are fundamental to ensuring a sustainable future,” he said.

*WA Water Innovation 2008* is a first-of-its-kind conference to be held on Thursday 29 May at the Hyatt Regency.

Details of the program can be obtained online at [www.water.wa.gov.au](http://www.water.wa.gov.au).

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