



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Joint Media Release
8 June 2010

Hunter Water Corporation Receives \$8.85m

Communities in the Hunter region are set to benefit from Federal Government funding that will assist in securing their water supplies.

Member for Hunter Joel Fitzgibbon and Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson yesterday congratulated Hunter Water Corporation for receiving \$8.8 million in Federal Government funding for their flagship *Lower Hunter Recycled Water Initiative* project.

Minister for Water Senator Penny Wong made the announcement during her visit to Newcastle.

Hunter Water Corporation's initiative will help communities in the region tackle the challenge of diversifying their water supplies in a future with less water.

"In the face of a growing population and the emerging effects of climate change, communities in the Hunter face increasing pressure in securing their water supplies," Ms Grierson said.

"In Newcastle, this funding will assist in boosting the capacity of the Kooragong water recycling plant so it can produce 3.3 billion litres of recycled water a year."

"An education facility that showcases the benefits and uses of recycled water, and how to use water more wisely will also be established at Steele River."

"We need to find new sources of water for urban supplies that are less dependent on rain-fed sources," Mr Fitzgibbon added.

"This funding means that a cogeneration plant for the combustion of biogas can be constructed at the Cessnock Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"All up, Hunter Water Corporation's innovative project will produce enough recycled water to replace around 5 per cent of the region's potable water use."

Funding has been provided by the Federal Government's *National Urban Water and Desalination Plan*, which is helping communities by investing in measures as diverse as stormwater reuse, desalination and water recycling.

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

The *National Urban Water and Desalination Plan* is part of the Federal Government's comprehensive, long-term *Water for the Future* initiative.

For more information on *Water for the Future* visit www.environment.gov.au/water

Media contacts: 4926 1555

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com