

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$23.2 MILLION TO DRIVE REGIONAL WATER REFORMS

Over the next two years the management of regional water will be transformed as the NSW Government delivers on its comprehensive water management reforms.

Minister for Regional Water, Niall Blair said the NSW Budget 2018 committed \$23.2 million over two years to deliver the State's Water Reform Action Plan. This includes funding for new technology, which will support best-practice water management and monitoring.

"This is about harnessing the ingenuity of NSW businesses to provide world-class technology to support transparent and accountable water use," Mr Blair said.

"These reforms are already well underway and are crucial to ensuring that NSW leads the country in the way that water is managed, measured and recorded.

"This funding also contributes to the operations of the Natural Resources Access Regulator, the independent compliance and regulatory authority, to provide it with the financial clout to account for every drop of water."

The NSW Government will also continue to fund the State's \$1 billion Safe and Secure Water program, which provides critical water and sewerage infrastructure for regional NSW.

Mr Blair said since the program started in August 2017, 136 expressions of interest have been received, with funding already announced for projects all over NSW, including Hay, Kempsey, Junee and Scone.

"This program supports better access to clean, reliable and affordable water and also delivers essential wastewater infrastructure to boost environmental and health standards.

"With over 2.3 million people living in regional NSW, it is vital we continue to invest in priority local infrastructure to underpin future growth and sustainability."

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