



FACT SHEET

Update 1 – June 2009

The Department of Water: our role in delivering the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project

The Department of Water is responsible for managing the State's water and is playing an important role in the delivery of the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project.

Working in partnership with the lead agency, the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, and other government agencies, the Department has a dedicated team who are contributing three integral components of the project.

What is the Department of Water's role?

Between May July 2009 and July 2011, the Department of Water will select the service provider, set the pricing arrangements for irrigation services and issue licensed allocations for water resources in the Ord.

- **Selecting the service provider:** In June 2009, the Department will open a register of interest for people or organisations interested in becoming the Ord irrigation service provider. Official expressions of interest will be called in September 2009. A preferred service provider will be selected by the end of 2009. The new service provider will operate the irrigation services to the 8,000ha of farmland to be developed in the Weaber Plains area.
- **Setting the pricing arrangements:** To ensure that the pricing arrangements are fair and in line with National water reform,

the Department will establish the pricing arrangements for the Ord service provider. The Department will work with the preferred service provider to negotiate the most suitable pricing structures to support the developing irrigation area.

- **Allocation and licensing:** Before land sales start, the Department will issue the new water service provider with a licensed water allocation from the Ord River. In the 2006 Ord River water allocation plan, the Department identified about 400 gegalitres per year of water available for the expansion project.

Where can I find more information?

If you would like to know more about the Department of Water's contribution to the Ord expansion project please see www.water.wa.gov.au/ordexpansion or contact:

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