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Deputy Premier

Minister for Regional NSW, Skills and Small Business

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SAFE AND SECURE WATER OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Expressions of interest for the NSW Government's historic \$1 billion *Safe and Secure Water Program* opened today, paving the way for improved water security and public health in regional NSW.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said the *Safe and Secure Water Program* will deliver high quality water services throughout regional NSW.

"This program offers co-funding for water security infrastructure that has real environmental benefits and lifts public health and living standards for the 1.9 million people living in regional NSW," Mr Barilaro said.

"This is one of the most significant investments in water security in the state's history ensuring that people and families who choose to live in regional NSW have the same access to the services and vital infrastructure as those that live in the city."

Minister for Regional Water, Niall Blair said this program means communities can build the water supply systems, the treatment plants, dams and drought back-up systems so that regional NSW continues to be the best place to live and work.

"Improved water supplies and wastewater services are fundamental to NSW communities and the co-funding provided through our Safe and Secure Water program underpins agriculture, mining and other industries across the state."

Eight projects were shortlisted as part of the 2017-18 NSW Budget announcement, including proposals for new wastewater treatment plants to be constructed at Hay, Junee, Kempsey, Bemboka and Bowraville, water storages at Nyngan, and water quality infrastructure at Scone and the Liverpool Plains.

The Safe and Secure Water fund is part of the Restart NSW Fund, which includes the proceeds of NSW Government's asset recycling program.

Expressions of interest for the first round of funding open today. Funding will be determined on a competitive basis.

Further information regarding the Safe and Secure Water Program, as well as details on how to lodge an expression of interest, are available from the DPI Water website – www.water.nsw.gov.au

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