

***MEDIA RELEASE***

**\$96 MILLION TO BRING RECYCLED WATER TO COFFS HARBOUR**

20 July 2009

Farms, businesses and local parks across Coffs Harbour will be connected to a network of recycled water pipes, NSW Water Minister, Phil Costa announced today at the opening of the Coffs Harbour Water Reclamation Plant.

“Coffs Harbour’s new Water Reclamation Plant is the last major element in an ambitious city-wide strategy to improve sewerage services and provide recycled water for the local community,” Mr Costa said.

“The new sewerage treatment plant uses state of the art technology to produce recycled water for local farms, businesses and parks for non-drinking purposes.

“We’ve invested \$40 million towards strategy through the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program to see more farmers and businesses in Coffs Harbour switch to recycled water.

“Industry, farms and businesses can tap into the recycled water through a network of pipes laid across the region,” Mr Costa said.

“These pipes made it simpler for businesses to tap into the resource in an effort to encourage them to move to recycled water use. “

Mr Costa said the new water reclamation plant was part of a town strategy to upgrade sewage treatment plants at Woolgoolga and Coffs Harbour, construct a pipe network linking treatment plants, and replace three shoreline outfalls with a single deep sea release.

“Congratulations to Coffs Harbour Council for encouraging the wider community to play a role in saving our precious drinking water,” Mr Costa said.

“The new plant will also improve the quality of effluent discharged to the ocean and with the new deep sea release; this work will help protect the beautiful Coffs coastal environment and the unique Solitary Islands Marine Park.

“The plant has been designed to cater for an additional 30,000 people, allowing for sustainable growth in the region. “

The project was delivered by the ‘Coffs Infrastructure Alliance’ team, including Council, Abigroup and John Holland is the largest ever alliance project in NSW local government.