

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW \$180 MILLION WATER STORAGE OPENS

20 July 2009

NSW Minister for Water, Phillip Costa today officially opened the Shannon Creek Water Storage facility, designed to secure the future water supplies of communities in Coffs Harbour and the Clarence Valley.

Mr Costa said the \$180 million project brought together Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley Councils to deliver better services to their communities.

“We’ve invested \$36 million towards this water storage project which will provide water security for the Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley,” Mr Costa said.

“The project includes about 90 kilometres of pipes and connecting pumping stations and an impressive new 30 billion litre storage facility at Shannon Creek north of Coffs Harbour.

“By working together, Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley Councils have provided for long term growth and water security for their regions, including providing for up to 60,000 more residents over the next 20 years.

“The storage facility allows capacity to be increased to up to 75 billion litres if needed – providing a stable source of safe, clean drinking water that can be increased in the future.

“Under the scheme, the Council’s have introduced water efficiency measures and improved environmental flows for the Nymboida and Orara Rivers – protecting the environment and preserving our most vital natural resource. “

The NSW Government contributed \$36 million towards the scheme project through its Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program.

“The NSW Government has committed over \$1.1 billion to the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program and it has already had some terrific results,” Mr Costa said.

“The Shannon Creek Water Storage is an example of how this program is improving water services for communities across NSW.

“This program has enabled more than 300 water supply and sewerage projects to be completed in rural and regional NSW, providing improvements for public health and the environment and secure water supplies for over one million people state-wide,” he added.