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MEDIA RELEASE

23rd July, 2010

Busselton Water Receives Australian Government Grant

Busselton Water has been successful in securing an Australian Government grant of over \$750,000 for its Radio Frequency (RF) Meter Reading Retrofit Project.

Busselton's CEO Keith White said "This is really good news for the Busselton community, particularly as the project focuses on reducing water loss and the protection of water quality."

"Busselton Water's RF Project, a first for Western Australia, involves the installation of a complete data collection system utilising radio frequency technology fitted to all water meters and fire services within Busselton Water's licensed area," Mr White said.

"Busselton Water has been moving towards a complete retrofit of the RF meter since its inception in 2007 where the device was first trialled in the Vasse Newtown subdivision, but without funding it would take 10 years or more to complete," said Mr White.

"There is no cost to customers for the installation and once installed it can actually save them money. Every year more customers are connected and every year reports of residential leaks grow. Over the last 3 years the value of leaks totalled in excess of \$97,000 and these are just the ones that became obvious when the customer received a high water account. There would be many more that go unnoticed," explained Mr White.

"The new RF meter provides new technology which, amongst other things, includes the ability to detect leaks on a property. This means that Busselton Water can be proactive and advise customers should a leak be detected.

"When your new meter is installed you will receive an information brochure explaining what it's all about and further updates will be provided as the retrofit project progresses," said Mr White.

The retrofit commenced on 19th July and will be completed by 30th June 2012.

The project will be partially funded by Busselton Water and the Australian Government's Water for the Future initiative through the National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns.

Ends

Media enquiries are to be directed to the Manager, Customer Services on 9781 0506 or julie.rawlings@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au