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MEDIA RELEASE

Harvey Water responds to State Government Announcement, Myalup Wellington Project

Harvey Water welcomes the State Government's position of remaining committed to finding a solution to manage the salinity of the Wellington Dam, Western Australia's second largest reservoir.

Harvey Water Chief Executive, Bradd Hamersley, acknowledged the complexity of the project and noted:

"Pursuing a long term solution to the Wellington Dam salinity issue remains a primary focus of Harvey Water. We are pleased that the State Government remains committed to this vision. We have 220 Members whom are directly impacted by this issue and we will work with Government towards retaining project funding and seeing the project benefits come to fruition."

Harvey Water, in consultation with the Myalup growers group, will continue to work with the State and Federal Government to consider alternative approaches to managing the salinity issues associated with Wellington Dam and improving the systems water use efficiency for the benefit of the wider Cooperative.

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Editor's Notes

Harvey Water is a self-funded farmer Co-operative with 720 irrigator members across the 112,000 hectare South West Irrigation District which supports dairy, citrus, pasture and intensive horticultural production.

Harvey Water is licensed to take 136 gigalitres of non-potable water from five dams by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Water is delivered under gravity pressure via a 751 kilometre piped and open channel distribution system.

The South West Irrigation District generates \$100 million gross value annually from beef, dairy and horticultural production. Harvey Water's purpose is to stimulate regional economic development through water access solutions.

Wellington Dam is the southern-most and largest of five dams providing water to the coastal plain irrigated districts. 42% of the irrigated land and almost 30% of Harvey Water's 720 irrigator Members are serviced by water from Wellington Dam.

In March 2018, the MWP project was announced to manage rising salinity levels in Wellington Dam, on the back of strong support from State Government (\$37 million) and Federal Government (\$140 million) due to productivity and employment benefits across many sectors.

Wellington Dam salinity has risen steadily over the past 80 years due to forest clearing to the point where farm productivity, input costs and viability are being significantly impacted. If this trend continues, water from Wellington Dam is forecast to be unsuitable for stock to drink within four to five years.

For agriculture in the CRID, the MWP benefits include;

- \$140 million increased productivity due to reduced input costs and higher value outputs
- 20% increase in horticulture
- 30% water saving through switching to a piped system
- Significant environmental outcomes through soil and water quality improvements
- An estimated job impact of 838