



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON PJ KEATING MP

PATAWALONGA CLEAN-UP

The Federal Government has today committed \$11 million to clean up Adelaide's Patawalonga Estuary - an area identified as Australia's worst polluted waterway.

The funding, under the Federal Government's Better Cities Program, will remove pollution and improve the water quality of the Patawalonga so it can again be used for recreation and leisure activities.

This will be a joint project with the MFP, the South Australian Government and local councils.

Patawalonga Estuary, which has a catchment of over 200 square kilometres and flows through 11 council areas, was identified by the Coastal Zone Inquiry as Australia's worst polluted waterway.

Stormwater run-off, rubbish and pollutants from the catchment area have had an adverse economic impact on Glenelg Beach which has lost development and tourist opportunities.

It has resulted in the Patawalonga effectively becoming a cess pool.

The clean up of the Patawalonga is part of a much larger project of urban water management in the Patawalonga's catchment which could become a model for the rest of Australia.

The program will set out an overall plan for the proper collection, treatment and management of water.

The 26 Better Cities Area Strategies around Australia demonstrate how urban regeneration can occur and how previously insurmountable problems can be overcome to give these areas a new lease on life.

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