

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 120

**Hearing:** Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Outcome 4.1

**Programme:** Water (WTR)

**Topic:** Increased water reform commitment

**Hansard Page:**

**Question Date:**

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

With an El Nino cycle on the way and ongoing drought in some areas, the Government is reducing its spending on both the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program and the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan. Is there any aspect of water reform where the Government has increased its commitment?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government recognises the challenges faced by rural communities, particularly in relation to drought and El Niño events, which is why we are focused on investment in infrastructure for both on-and off-farm water delivery. In line with this, funding for the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program (SRWUIP) has increased by \$37 million.