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Media Release

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NEW INNOVATIVE WATER INDUSTRY COULD DROUGHT-PROOF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A new innovative water industry in South Australia identified by technology-solutions company Siemens and local wind desalination pioneer Windesal could secure water supplies for regional communities and effectively drought-proof the State, according to both companies.

Speaking at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's Water Review in Adelaide today, the Chairman and Managing Director of Siemens Australia Ltd, Albert Goller, announced a landmark partnership with Windesal to develop clean technologies and establish a new water supply that would ensure a reliable source of fresh drinking water to towns and cities across South Australia.

Mr Goller said Siemens' alliance with Windesal is an extension of the organisation's newly-launched *Picture the Future: Australia Energy and Water 2030* blueprint, which recommends Australia invests \$60 billion on alternative energy initiatives and \$23 billion on water infrastructure over the next decade.

"This agreement with Windesal allows us to practically move forward on our *Picture the Future* vision for water, which is to ensure that water restrictions are no longer a limiting factor for Australia's growth plans," he said.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two companies, a water technology hub could be set up in regional SA and serve as a world-class industry showcase for new water technologies.

Port Pirie on the Spencer Gulf has been earmarked as a possible location for the water technology hub, which would position the city and other regional areas as global leaders in water innovation. It would also potentially create a new food bowl for South Australia by providing water to the nutrient-rich soils of the State's mid-north.

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**Siemens Australia and New Zealand
Media Relations**
Belinda White
Tel: +61 (3) 9721 7590
Mobile: +61 (0) 448 400 180 or
+61 (0) 405 479 156
Email: belinda.white@siemens.com

**Windesal
Hughes Public Relations**
Kieran Hall
Tel: +61 (8) 8412 4100
Mobile: +61 (0)422 147 151
Email: kieran@hughespr.com.au



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It is envisaged a series of wind-powered desalination plants could also be established across the State, each capable of harnessing 100 percent renewable energy to turn seawater and groundwater into potable water.

“This partnership represents a significant step forward for regional centres in South Australia, which through our collaborative effort with Windesal will have a ready supply of clean desalinated water produced entirely from a renewable energy source,” Mr Goller said.

Bertram Ehmann, Executive Vice President of Energy, Siemens Ltd explains that Siemens technology is highly complementary to Windesal’s innovative desalinated water and renewable energy solution.

“Siemens offers a turn-key solution for Windesal with the expertise to fully integrate wind power, diesel and desalinated water into one remotely-based water purifying solution for regional areas. Particularly important is our vast experience in the South Australian region and capacity to offer hands-on assistance for maintenance and ongoing continuity of the project long-term,” said Mr Ehmann.

Siemens is currently the world’s largest supplier of eco-friendly technologies, while Adelaide-based Windesal has developed new Danish technologies that use renewable energy to turn seawater and brackish groundwater into high quality drinking water.

Executive Director of Windesal, Barrie Harrop, says 20 locations have been identified in SA as possible sites for wind-powered desalination plants, which would initially generate up to 100 gigalitres of new water for the State annually and potentially create thousands of new jobs.

“As the driest State on the driest continent in the world, South Australia has a tremendous opportunity to establish a new water industry and become a global leader in water innovation,” Mr Harrop said.

“We can help solve SA’s water problems and satisfy the supply needs of regional towns and industries, including the mining sector, to effectively drought-proof the State.

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“Our partnership with Siemens will enable both organisations to deliver on a shared vision to provide water security for local communities. And while our initial focus will be on South Australia, our plans extend interstate and, through Siemens’ global presence, around the world.”

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For more information, please contact Siemens in Australia on 137 222 and in New Zealand on +64 9 580 5500 or visit www.siemens.com.au

About Siemens in Australia and New Zealand

Siemens commenced operations in Australia in 1872 and in New Zealand in 1876. Siemens is now recognised as one of the most reliable and trusted brands in the region. With well-established businesses in both Australia and New Zealand, Siemens is a diversified technology-based solutions provider specialising in the areas of water, energy, environment, healthcare, productivity, mobility, safety and security. At the end of fiscal 2009 (September 2009), Siemens in Australia and New Zealand achieved AUD2.54 billion in sales with 3300 employees. Globally at the end of fiscal 2009, revenue from the Portfolio totalled about EUR23 billion, making Siemens the world’s largest supplier of ecofriendly technologies. In the same period, the company’s products and solutions enabled customers to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 10 million tons. This amount equals the combined annual CO₂ emissions of New York, Tokyo, London and Berlin. Siemens in Australia and New Zealand is part of the Siemens global network of innovation which operates in 190 countries throughout the world.

Windesal. Fresh water from the sea 24/7.

For more information, please contact Windesal on +618 8260 8201 or visit www.windesal.com

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Tel: +61 (3) 9721 7590
Mobile: +61 (0) 448 400 180 or
+61 (0) 405 479 156
Email: belinda.white@siemens.com

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About Windesal

Established in 2008, Windesal is an Adelaide-based company that has developed new Danish technologies to turn seawater and brackish groundwater into high quality potable water using renewable energy. The company's wind-powered desalination systems are designed as modules which are each capable of producing between 3-5 gigalitres of fresh water annually through power generated by wind turbines. During periods when wind is insufficient to drive the turbines, they are run by a modified generator powered by bio-fuels and other renewable energy sources. Depending on power and water requirements, additional turbines or desalination modules can subsequently be added to each plant as necessary to enable power to be fed into the electricity grid and/or greater water production. Windesal is dedicated to securing the water and power supplies of local communities and with its Danish supplier already has a similar operational plant providing power to an island community in Northern Europe.

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