

# News Release

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**Hon Jay Weatherill**

Minister for Environment &  
Conservation  
Minister for Early Childhood  
Development

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & Reconciliation  
Min Ast the Premier in Cabinet Bus & Public Sector Mgt

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Monday, 23 February 2009

## **GOVERNMENT AND UNIS JOIN FORCES ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

The State's foremost experts in water, soil, animals and plants are teaming up in a unique alliance to seek answers to key questions about adapting to climate change.

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill today launched the Natural Resources Management Research Alliance – a collaboration of State Government agencies, universities, the CSIRO and NRM boards.

The alliance will provide strategic advice to the Minister as well as attract investment into South Australian projects.

“Climate change is the key issue facing our natural resources managers and we have much to gain by working together on NRM research, rather than duplicating our efforts,” Mr Weatherill said.

“We’ve got to make sure there’s an open door between government and academia if we are to get the best possible decision-making about our natural environment.

“This is a unique alliance – no other State is taking this strategic statewide approach, which aims to give us a competitive advantage in attracting investment in this most crucial area of research.

“Across the State, researchers and natural resources managers will join together to share information for planning and implementing efficient methods for managing our water, soil, animals and plants.

“Science, technology and innovation are critical to continually improving our on-ground natural resources management.

“The alliance is aimed at attracting and directing investment into NRM research and ensuring it is directed to the most important priorities in South Australia, including adapting to climate change.”

The NRM Research Alliance will be chaired by Dr Keith Steele and includes the University of South Australia, Adelaide University, Flinders University, the CSIRO, State Government agencies, the State NRM Council and Regional NRM boards. The alliance also will work with governments, regional boards and industry on water-related issues across the state as well as with Marine Innovation SA on marine issues. Information regarding the new NRM Research Alliance will be available at [www.nrmra.org.au](http://www.nrmra.org.au)