

A newsletter providing information on the latest developments in the planning and construction of Western Australia's second seawater desalination plant.

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Project to undergo stringent environmental assessment

On 9 October the Acting Minister for Environment, on advice from the Appeals Convenor, decided that the level of environmental assessment for the Southern Seawater Desalination Project should be a Public Environmental Review (PER).

The PER is the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) second highest level of formal assessment, and sets out a stringent environmental process which we must follow. The main difference between the PER and an Environmental Review and Management Program (ERMP) is that management plans are included in the latter. However, we have committed to include management plans in our PER for EPA assessment.

The decision to extend the public review period from six to eight weeks is supported by us.

The PER process will result in strict, legally-enforceable environmental conditions, similar to other large infrastructure projects such as the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant.

Preferred pipeline corridor determined

Following significant planning work and discussions with landowners and other stakeholders, we have identified a preferred pipeline corridor to deliver water from the desalination plant to the Integrated Water Supply Scheme.

Stakeholder and landowner input, Aboriginal heritage, environmental and technical constraints were all considered in identifying this corridor.



A landowner pipeline forum was held in Harvey on 5 September 2007.

The preferred pipeline corridor is 50 metres wide, but this will be refined to 15 metres later on. Detailed environmental survey work is under way to determine the feasibility of the corridor. A final pipeline route and site for a storage tank north east of Harvey will be confirmed by the end of the year.

A description and map of the preferred pipeline corridor is available on our website or by contacting us. This will also be included in the PER for assessment by the EPA.

Communication update

Thank you to everyone who attended our community forum and walk-in sessions held in Binningup on Tuesday, 25 September.

The forum gave our project team the opportunity to update the community and discuss any issues. Constructive feedback was gained, and similar forums will continue to be held as the project moves forward.

Our next community forum is expected to be held in early December 2007. At this forum there will be an opportunity to discuss the environmental scoping document which outlines the environmental studies we will be undertaking. More information on this forum will be provided soon.

For more information on the Southern Seawater Desalination Project:

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

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Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au



A community forum and 'walk in' was held in Binningup on 25 September 2007.

Our peer reviewers

We are in the process of engaging peer reviewers to critically examine the environmental documents produced by us and our consultants. These reviewers have internationally-recognised expertise in relevant scientific areas such as marine environments, ocean modelling and impacts on the land.

Our three main peer reviewers are:

What: Review of our studies into marine physical processes.

Who: *Professor Jorg Imberger, Centre for Water Research, University of Western Australia.* Professor Imberger is the Director of the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia and is a renowned water expert. His research work has been recognised and acclaimed both nationally and internationally.

What: Review of the marine section of the Public Environmental Review.

Who: *Mark Bailey, Oceanica Consulting Pty Ltd* Mark has 20 years professional experience in engineering and environmental work and is an experienced civil engineer. In the past 10 years he has worked in the fields of marine environmental impact studies, environmental project management and modelling of aquatic ecosystems.

What: Review of the terrestrial section of the Public Environmental Review.

Who: *Karen Lane, ENV Australia Pty Ltd*
Karen Lane is an experienced civil engineer and hydrologist with 20 years experience in the water and environmental fields.

We are also engaging the following peer reviewers on specific environmental topics:

- Dr Michael Warne, CSIRO Land and Water, will be reviewing our marine toxicity studies.
- Dr Jo Ann Beckwith, Beckwith Environmental Planning Pty Ltd, will be reviewing our social impact assessment.
- Harry Ventriss, Strategen, will be reviewing our sustainability statement.
- Dr Ian Wallis, CEE Pty Ltd, will be reviewing the marine physical processes.

More information on our peer reviewers and details of how and when the community can access them will be provided soon.

Confidential community research

Synovate Research will conduct a second telephone survey on community awareness and perceptions of the desalination project during November. The first survey took place in August 2007. This research is very important as it enables you to tell us your views without identifying who you are. It also helps us to make any necessary changes to our communications. You may get a call from Synovate, and your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Want more information?

Would you like to know more about the project? Would you like to join our mailing list?

Email, call or write to us on the contacts below.