

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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Binningup Beach

Your Environment, Your Say

The Corporation has prepared a draft Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) for the project, which is currently being reviewed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). This document explains the environmental studies we plan to undertake to assess the impacts of the project on the land, sea and people.

Our ESD will be released for a two week public review from **26 November to 10 December 2007**, because we want to hear what the community and our stakeholders have to say about the environmental studies we plan to undertake.

From 26 November you can access a copy of the ESD from:

- The Binningup General Store or the Binningup or Harvey libraries
- Our website www.watercorporation.com.au
- Freecall 1800 810 075
- Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Your comments are due before 5pm 10 December 2007 by emailing or writing to us.

Our ESD contains an *explanation* of the studies we plan to undertake. The Public Environmental Review (PER) document, which will be prepared in the first half of 2008 and open for an eight week public review, will contain the *findings* of these studies. The community will have an opportunity to review both documents.

Information fact sheets will be available at the time of the ESD release on our website, at local libraries or by contacting us.

Connecting the new water to the tap

The Corporation has recently identified a preferred pipeline corridor which will carry the new water from the desalination plant to the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS) north east of Harvey.

The preferred corridor was identified based on technical, environmental, economic and social criteria. The viability of this corridor is currently being tested by flora and fauna surveys. Further investigations will occur in early 2008, including one-on-one discussions with landowners, followed by land and geotechnical surveys. A final pipeline route will be confirmed by mid 2008.

In order to feed the new water source into the IWSS, a summit tank facility will be built on the escarpment north east of Harvey. The Corporation has been negotiating with landowners and the Shire of Harvey on the location of this tank facility. A key consideration in choosing the location of the facility is that any visual impact on surrounding areas is minimal. We will consult with the broader community in early 2008.

What will the desalination plant look like?

The 'look' of the plant and its visibility is one of the critical considerations in planning for the plant. The community has told us they don't want to see or hear the plant.

We are currently investigating the site's social and environmental impacts through our studies and consultation with the community. Social and environmental constraints will form part of our instructions to the *Alliance* that will design the plant (refer below for further information on the *Competitive Alliance* process).

For more information:

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au

At our community forum being held on 3 December we will have a computer-generated program that will show the community site-line footage from surrounding areas. This will be based on a broad plant footprint and nominal building heights.

Competitive Alliance Model

The desalination plant will be designed, built, operated and maintained by an *Alliance*. The *Alliance* will be made up of a *consortium* which is a group of companies working with the Corporation to design, build, operate and maintain the plant.

We are using the *Alliance* model because we know it works very well for projects of this nature, such as the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant built in Kwinana.

We are in the early phases of the *Alliance Selection Process* for the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant, which includes the following:

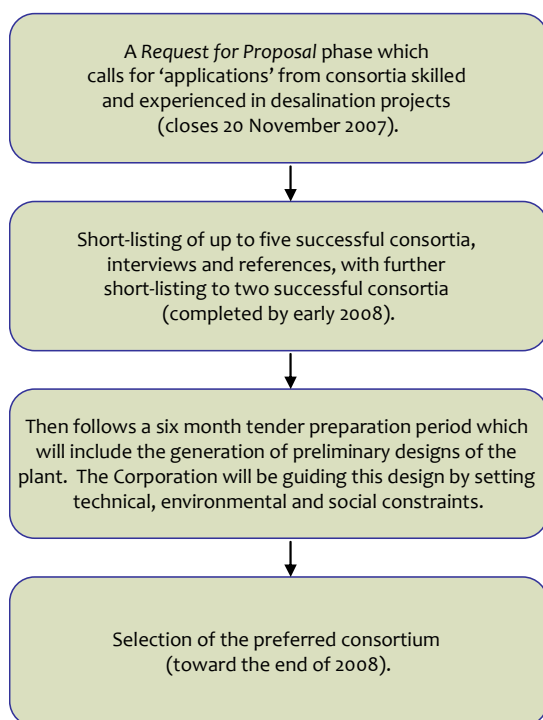


Diagram 1: Indicative Alliance Process

An *Alliance* model allows innovation and creativity in the design of the desalination plant. The benefit of the competing consortia developing a design is that it allows the Corporation to choose the best plant for the best price.

The final design of the plant will not be available until the *Alliance Selection Process* is completed toward the end of

2008. We will continue to consult with the community and our stakeholders to ensure a socially acceptable design is created.

Dye dispersion testing

On Saturday 17 November a harmless red dye, called 'rhodamine' was released into the ocean off Binningup Beach. The test, in conjunction with other ongoing studies, will help to provide a strong understanding of the ocean's ability to disperse brine that will be returned to the ocean as part of the desalination process. The findings of this test will be publicly available during December 2007.

Rhodamine is a tracer dye which is soluble in water and is environmentally benign in the quantities we have used. It is a fluorescent dye and is often used within water to determine the rate and direction of water flow.



Dye dispersion test off Binningup Beach, 17 September 2007

Upcoming community events

What: Community Forum

When: 3 December 2007, 2-4pm, 6-8pm

Where: Binningup Water Sports Centre

Note: A supervised childrens area will be available to parents

What: Taranto Road Open Day

When: 2 December 2007, come any time from 10am to 1pm (food will be provided)

Where: Taranto Road, Binningup

RSVP: Required for health and safety purposes by contacting us

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