

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 Manager Mark Oliver at the Taranto Road Open Day

Your Environment, Your Say

The closing date for public comment on the draft Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) was 10 December 2007. We received 16 submissions. All submissions will be personally responded to. The comments and our responses will be placed on our website (names will be withheld for privacy). All comments and responses will be provided to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for consideration in their assessment of the Public Environment Review (PER) which is expected to be released for public comment in early 2008.

Competitive Alliance Update

The Corporation is in the process of short-listing applications to design, build and operate the plant.

We will select two consortia in early 2008 to undertake a six month competitive tender process, at the end of which we will award a final contract.

The Corporation will set a number of technical, environmental and social design criteria which will need to be adhered to by the short-listed consortia. We will

continue to consult with the community and our stakeholders to ensure a suitable design is created.

More information on the Alliance process can be found in the November edition of this newsletter, available on our website.

Current studies

Through to 21 December 2007, weather permitting, we will undertake important offshore geotechnical work. This work will tell us the depth of sand and hard rock, to help determine possible methods of construction for intake and outlet pipe work.

You will see a barge with an A-frame, a boat and a sub-sea rig which will be operated by divers. The findings from this study will be available in the PER.

Other investigative work being carried out this month will include filming along the potential inlet/outlet pipe route to map out the seafloor vegetation. The results from this work will also be available in the PER.

Communications Update

Thank you to everyone who attended our Taranto Road Open Day on Sunday 2 December and community forums held at the new Binningup Water Sports Centre on Monday 3 December 2007.

The open day gave community members the opportunity to walk the Taranto Road site and talk to our project team over a BBQ.

We introduced two of our peer reviewers, Mark Bailey (marine) and Karen Lane (terrestrial) at the community forum.

If you have any questions for Mark or Karen email them to desalination@watercorporation.com.au and we will pass them on. We will not edit your questions, but will collate so the peer reviewers are not inundated with similar requests.

The main issues that were raised at the recent community forum were:

- **Q. What chemicals will be used at the desalination plant?**
A. While we will not know exactly what will be required for the Southern

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Seawater Desalination Plant until a final design is developed, we are currently putting together information about the chemicals that are used at the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant for your information. This will be distributed and put onto our website in the coming weeks. In early 2008 we will hold another community event. This will provide further opportunity to discuss the desalination process and the use of chemicals.

• **Q. What will the plant look like?**

A. We will not know the plant design until 2009 when the Alliance contract has been awarded and we have gained all environmental approvals. At the recent community forum we were able to show an indicative plan of where the Alliance cannot build, the construction area and revegetation areas.

We were also able to show preliminary sight lines from various points surrounding the site. The presentation showing the different site areas and preliminary sight lines is available on our website.

• **Q. How is the plant being powered?**

A. We are in the early stages of procuring the power source and a decision will be made in the first half of 2008. The way in which the power reaches the plant is currently being considered by Western Power and the Corporation. The community will be consulted on this during 2008.

Information provided to the community

The following reports and scoping documents have recently been added to our website and provided to stakeholders:

Reports:

- Draft Environmental Scoping Document, November 2007
- Flora and Fauna Report, 2006
- Community Research Report, August 2007
- Community Research Report, November 2007

Scope of Work for current studies (reports will be released with the PER):

- Fish Larval Studies, November 2007
- Peer Reviewers, 2007
- Level 1 Fauna, July 2006
- Level 1 Flora, June 2006
- Marine Studies, August 2006



BBQ at the Taranto Road Open Day

- Water Quality Testing, May 2006
- Noise Study, June 2007
- Site Contamination Study – Lot 8, October 2007
- Site Contamination Study – Lot 32 & 33, June 2007
- Level 2 Flora and Fauna, 2007
- Marine Studies, July 2007
- Further Marine Studies, July 2007
- Wetlands Studies, September 2007
- Kemerton Review, 2007
- Social Impact Assessment, 2007
- Community Research Telephone Survey Questions, August 2007
- Community Research Telephone Survey Questions, November 2007

Call 1800 810 075 if you would like any copies of these documents sent to you.

Upcoming community events

In the first half of 2008 we will hold events for:

- A planning update and further community discussion.
- The final pipeline route and location of the Harvey Summit Tank.
- The release of the PER and associated environmental studies.

There will be more information on these events to come.

The Southern Seawater Desalination Project team would like to thank you for your input during 2007. We wish you a safe and happy festive season, and look forward to working with you again in 2008.

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