

**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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### **Alliance selection update**

As reported in previous newsletters, we are currently short-listing companies to work in partnership with us to design, build, operate and maintain the desalination plant.

Using this 'Alliance' model for capital works is important for several reasons. Firstly, it adds significantly to our own resources, and allows us to access the very best skills and technology available around the world. Secondly, a competitive tendering process enables us to ensure we obtain the very best engineering solutions - at a cost that represents the best value-for-money for the people of Western Australia.

The selection process for the desalination project is progressing well, and we expect to announce the two short-listed companies - who will spend the following six months in a competitive tendering process - in February 2008. Selection of the preferred consortium will occur after we have been granted all necessary environmental approvals.

### **Connecting pipeline and tank update**

An important part of the desalination project is the construction of a 30km pipeline from the plant to new water storage tank north east of Harvey (Harvey Summit Tank). This infrastructure will deliver water from the plant to the Integrated Water Supply Scheme (IWSS).

Following technical and environmental studies and consultation with landowners, the pipeline route is almost finalised. We are continuing to consult one-to-one with landowners who will be affected by the construction of the pipeline.

Talks are underway with the landowner of the site identified for the Harvey Summit Tank. Initially one tank will be built to hold the desalinated water before it enters the IWSS. This may expand to two tanks if the volume of desalinated water increases in the future. A further two tanks may also be built in time to cater for local water requirements. An important criteria for the siting of the tanks is that they are not highly visible from the surrounding area.

Information on the location of the Harvey Summit Tank will be provided as soon as landowner negotiations have been finalised, which is expected in the first half of 2008.

### **Environmental update**

We have now entered the second phase of the environmental approvals process set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The first phase involved preparing our Environmental Scoping Document (ESD) which outlined the studies we are carrying out to investigate potential impacts from the desalination project on the surrounding environment.

We released our ESD for public comment in late 2007 and received 16 submissions. Our response to the submissions is available on our website, or by calling or emailing us. The EPA is currently considering the ESD, and once endorsed, the final document will be made publically available.

The second phase of the approvals process involves us preparing the Public Environment Review (PER) report, which contains the findings of all of our studies and management strategies to minimise impacts.

**For more information on the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant:**

Email [desalination@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:desalination@watercorporation.com.au)

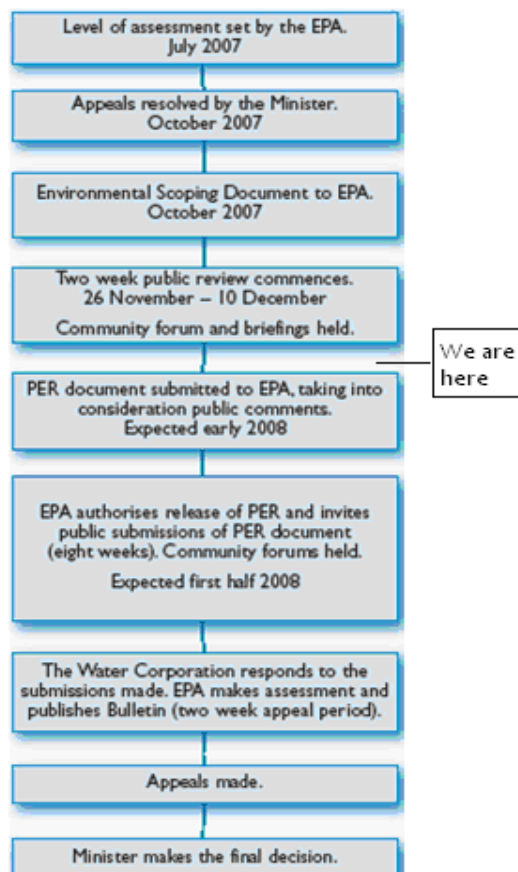
Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au)

The community will have a chance to review our PER report when the EPA releases it for public comment, which is expected in the first half of this year. A comprehensive consultation program will support its release, including community access to our peer reviewers.

The environmental process is summarised below:



## Whale expert joins team

Chris Burton from Western Whale Research has recently joined the project as our whale expert.

Chris will recommend management strategies to avoid any impacts on migrating whales. His recommendations, which are expected to be similar to those successfully implemented for the construction of the Bunbury Ocean Outfall, will be included in the management plans that form part of our environmental approval.



A whale seen off the coast at Binningup beach, 2007

## Housing growth at Binningup

Property developers Mirvac and Binningup Nominees Pty Ltd recently announced their plan to develop the area immediately south of the desalination plant site. We will be working closely with the developers in the planning of the plant to ensure that any impacts on future residents is minimised.

## New documents available

The following documents have recently been added to our website:

- Request for Proposal to form an Alliance;
- Perth Seawater Desalination Plant Licence Conditions;
- Synovate Research Questions – August and November 2007;
- Section 17 Chlorine Leak/Spill of the Wanneroo Groundwater Treatment Plant Contingency Plan; and
- Chemical information

We will continue to upload documents onto our website as they become available and will provide copies to anyone who contacts us.

## Upcoming community events

**What:** Community Information Session on the desalination process and 'what's new' on other aspects of the project.

**When:** 21 February 2008, 2-4pm and 6-8pm

**Where:** Binningup Water Sports Centre

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