



Planning, constructing and investing in communities throughout WA to help us ensure water for all, forever.

# Southern Seawater Desalination Project

## Newsletter – April 2008

**A NEWS LETTER PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S SECOND SEAWATER DESALINATION PLANT.**

*This newsletter covers the release of the Public Environmental Review (the PER) and the plan to establish a pilot plant on the project site.*

### What is the PER?

The Water Corporation is legally required to submit a PER document under the Environmental Protection Act. It is a report that sets out what potential environmental issues could arise from the proposal to build the desalination plant and maps out strategies to minimise and mitigate any issues.

The PER also looked at decisions made early in the planning stage to reduce the impact of the project.

### When was the PER released?

The PER was released on Monday 21 April 2008. There is an 8 week review period where the EPA invites submissions from the public and stakeholders. A submission is a way for the community to provide information and make suggestions on ways to improve the proposal.

### When do submissions close?

Submissions close on 16 June 2008.

### Where do I send my submission?

Email: [submissions.eia@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:submissions.eia@dec.wa.gov.au)

Post: EPA Service Unit

Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square

PERTH WA 6850

Attention: Helen Dagnall

### What were some of the issues the PER looked at?

The PER looked at the construction and operational impacts of the plant on terrestrial, marine, atmospheric and social factors.

Many of the issues we know the community is concerned about are addressed in the PER.

These include:

- **Noise**
- **Impact on marine animals**
- **Impact on terrestrial flora and fauna**
- **Visual impact of the site**

### What happens to my submission?

The EPA sends all submissions to the Water Corporation and we will provide a response to each submission. This response will be considered by the EPA (along with the PER) when preparing their advice to the Minister for Environment. This advice will then be published for public review – giving the community another chance to make comment.

If you would like a copy of the PER or more information, please call us on 1800 810 075 or email [desalination@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:desalination@watercorporation.com.au)

## **PILOT PLANT**

As part of the design process, a pilot plant will be established on the site in the next couple of months. A pilot plant is a mini-version of a water treatment plant and is used to understand what pre-treatment processes, chemicals and components will be required for the plant before it's commissioned.

### **What's involved?**

The equipment used in the pilot plant is minimal and will basically fit inside five sea containers. It will also involve a couple of tanks and two pumps.

### **Are there pipes involved?**

There will be two small (160mm diameter) pipes that will run from the pilot plant, under the beach, about 500m into the ocean.

### **Does this mean the beach will be closed while the pipes are laid?**

Yes, for public safety reasons, the beach is likely to be closed for 24 hours while the pipes are buried under the beach. The Water Corporation will ensure the community is fully informed of the details of any closure.

### **Will it be visible from the beach?**

No. It will be located on the Water Corporation site behind the sand dunes.

### **Who is involved?**

The two consortiums that have been short-listed to tender for the project will be working at the pilot plant for up to 18 months. The plant will be run by up to five people.



### **What hours will the pilot plant operate?**

The pilot plant will operate in business hours and will not operate at night.

### **Does the testing have to happen at the site?**

Water quality varies up and down the coast which is why it's important that the test happens at the site. Each desalination plant has different requirements and therefore it is critical to gather as much information through the Pilot Plant prior to completion of design to select the appropriate processes for our particular plant.

**Picture: A section of the pilot plant used as part of the design phase for the Perth Desalination Plant.**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS IN BINNINGUP**

Wednesday 30 April: 3pm - 5pm and 7.30pm - 9.30pm Community Meetings with Water Corporation representatives and expert marine consultants.

Thursday 15 May: Peer Reviewers Session

Week commencing 19 May: 'How to write a submission' session

Representatives from Western Power will be visiting the community in the next month or so to hold an information session explaining potential power line routes for the proposed desalination plant.