

Southern Seawater Desalination Project



JUN E – JULY 2009 NEWSLETTER

About the Project

The new seawater desalination plant will be situated on Taranto Road, between Binningup and Myalup, and water from the plant will be fed into the Integrated Water Supply Scheme near Harvey, approximately 30 kilometres inland.

The plant will produce 50 billion litres (Gigalitres) of drinking water annually with a capacity to expand to 100 GL per year.

Currently the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant in Kwinana accounts for approximately 17% of our total water consumption. At the completion of the Southern Seawater Desalination Project in late 2011, desalinated water will account for on average over 30% of WA's supply.

The development of this integral water infrastructure is in response to the reduced rainfall in WA, the population growth experience over the past 30 years, and subsequent increase in water demand.

As the State's water utility, we have a responsibility to ensure a secure water supply for all WA residents, and desalination is part of a strategic approach to our long-term water sustainability.

The design, construction and operation (for 25 years) of the desalination plant has been awarded to the Southern SeaWater Alliance (SSWA). The SSWA comprises of Tecnicas Reunidas, Valoriza Agua, AJ Lucas, WorleyParsons and the Water Corporation.

The use of an alliance has allowed the Corporation to capture international expertise therefore significantly increasing our resources and ensuring the best engineering solutions at competitive prices.

The second component of this major project involves the design and construction of approximately 30 km's of pipeline from Binningup to Harvey to facilitate the water transfer from the desalination plant, and the design and construction of the summit tanks in Harvey.

Throughout the rigorous two year approvals phase, the Corporation has extensively engaged the surrounding communities, in particular, Binningup and Myalup.

Resultant of this consultation, we understand nearby residents concerns for potential environmental and social impacts. Through detailed environmental management plans and a social impact management plan, the Corporation and the SSWA are confident a long-term, harmonious relationship can be established with the surrounding communities.

Community engagement doesn't stop now though! Throughout construction and operation, the SSWA will maintain open communication channels and will continue to work with the Community Reference Group.

Approvals Update

The Water Corporation reached a critical milestone in late June when the Federal Government granted conditional environmental approval for the Southern Seawater Desalination Project, the final external approval required.

As was the case with the State Government's environmental approval, the Shire of Harvey planning approval and the West Australian Planning Commission approval, strict conditions were imposed on the project.

Until certain conditions are met, the only authorised work is the geotechnical investigations. Over the coming weeks we expect to have all the required conditions finalised at which stage construction will commence.

Meet the SSWA Team

Over the coming months, the SSWA team members will be slowly relocating to the region, and in some cases, will be becoming part of your community.

To introduce the team to the community and provide you all an opportunity to ask questions about the project, in particular the upcoming construction activities, we'd like to invite you to our **community day** on **Wednesday, 5 August 2009** at the Country Club, Binningup.

The forum will be held between **4pm and 8pm** with two short presentations taking place at 5pm and 7pm.

So why not pop along, have a chat with the expert team and enjoy a free sausage sizzle on the day.

How you influenced the project?

Extensive discussions between the Corporation and the local communities over the last two years have allowed us to understand your major concerns for the local environment.

Taking these concerns into consideration, the following decisions were made to ensure impacts were minimised:

- Purchase of a disused quarry to house the majority of the infrastructure thereby reducing the environmental footprint;
- All marine works undertaken to the 100 Gigalitre per year capacity thereby reducing the environmental and social disturbance;
- The electricity to power the plant will be purchased from renewable sources including all environmental credits;
- Underground tunnelling methodology employed to minimise beach disturbance and beach closure period;
- More vegetation will be rehabilitated than cleared;
- A construction camp will not be utilised to elevate any potential social implications;
- The pump station has been set back 450 m from the beach, behind the dunes to minimise dune disturbance and visual impact;
- An 8 metre high vegetated berm will be constructed along the eastern and southern boundary to act as a visual and noise screen; and
- All noise regulations will be met.

Thank you to the community members who participated throughout this process - your input shaped the design.



Construction Schedule

Every month the latest construction schedule will be updated on the Water Corporation's website in an effort to provide residents with the most up-to-date information.

Where practical or in extraordinary circumstances, other communication channels may be employed including the newsletter, CRG, local publications, newspaper advertising and letter-box drops.

To view the latest construction schedule, follow the link from the project's home page at http://www.watercorporation.com.au/D/desalination_plant2.cfm

Over the coming months you can expect the following construction activities:

- ◆ Geotechnical surveys: June - July 2009
- ◆ Site boundary fencing: July 2009
- ◆ Bulk Earthworks: July - October 2009
- ◆ Intake Seawater Pump Station: September 2009

If you, or anyone you know, utilises this area for quad-biking, please note the upcoming fencing of the plant site for security and public safety reasons.

Whilst this activity is illegal, we recognise many locals use this area and ask you to exercise extreme caution and refrain from using the area.

How can I contact the SSWA?

Throughout construction and operation, open communication channels will be maintained for local community members.

To contact the SSWA:

- Call 1800 810 075 (open during business hours)
- Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au
- For emergencies and faults call - 13 13 75 (24 hours Operations Centre)
- Through your appointed CRG representatives:

Adele Given	Maylup Community Member	9720 1069	given004@bigpond.com
Dave Brindle	Maylup Community Member	0419 045 568	dbrindle@westnet.com.au
Errol Harwood	Maylup Community Association	0417 174 147	jkbs@inet.net.au
Paul Atherton	Binningup Community Association	0417 171 353	paul@keylife.com.au
Jan Nichols	Binningup Community Member	9720 1340	
John Farnan	Binningup Senior Citizens	9720 2009	mariajohn@oceanbroadband.net
Julie Doyle	Binningup Surf Life Saving Club	0427 201 138	binningupslsc@hotmail.com
Marie Dilley	Binningup Desalination Action Group	0400 652 656	on-sitesolutions@westnet.com.au
Ken Brindley	Binningup Bowling Club		kenncath@aapt.net.au
Penny Welmans	Binningup Beach Christian Fellowship	9720 1551	penny@oceanbroadband.net
Jesse Puccio	Binningup Community Member		jesse@oceanbroadband.net
Peter Monagle	Shire of Harvey	9726 3206	pfmonagle@bigpond.com
Michael Parker	Shire of Harvey	9729 0300	shire@harvey.wa.gov.au

Local Employment Opportunities

From the outset of the project, we've committed to a 'buy local' policy where practical for the construction of the desalination plant.

Outlined below are the various avenues for seeking employment opportunities.

Professional Appointments

Please email hr@ssjv.com.au. (please clearly outline your qualifications)

Contracting Opportunities

Please register your interest at <http://www.projectconnect.com.au>

Local Labour

Please follow the link on the project's home page http://www.watercorporation.com.au/D/desalination_plant2.cfm.

This page will be frequently updated to display contractors who have been awarded the various work packages.