

**TERMS OF REFERENCE
SOUTHERN SEAWATER DESALINATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP**

BACKGROUND

The proposed Southern Seawater Desalination Project (SSDP) has been chosen as the next major water source for the South-West. The site identified lies between the coastal towns of Binningup and Myalup on the South-West coast.

The Water Corporation commissioned a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to build on the knowledge of potential social impacts during construction and operation. One of the recommendations from the SIA was that a Community Reference Group (CRG) be established to enhance communication between the community and the project.

Following this, the Water Corporation is establishing the Southern Seawater Desalination Project Community Reference Group.

MEMBERSHIP

The group will be comprised of up to thirteen members. It is anticipated that this will include a broad range of representatives, one from each of the following, except for the Harvey Shire:

- Shire of Harvey (2 Reps)
- Binningup Desalination Action Group
- Binningup Community Association
- Myalup Community Association
- Binningup Senior Citizens Association
- Binningup Surf Life Saving Club
- Harvey District Water Sports Club
- The Myalup Community
- The Binningup Community

The Water Corporation will be represented at CRG meetings by the Manager, Southern Seawater Desalination Scheme (or nominee) but will not have voting rights.

CHAIRPERSON

The CRG will be facilitated by an independent chairperson. This chairperson will be endorsed by the CRG and will not have voting rights.

RESOURCING

The Water Corporation will provide administrative support to the CRG in the form of an executive officer and will resource the Group with stationery materials and catering.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE

The SSDP is a major project that will see a significant Water Corporation presence in the local area for the long-term. The purpose of the CRG is to help build on the relationship between the communities impacted and the Water Corporation. The Water Corporation genuinely wants to understand the community's priorities and concerns that exist currently, through construction and on to operation. The CRG is a formal way for the Water Corporation to draw on the local knowledge to help build the most environmentally and socially sustainable plant possible.

However, the CRG is also a great opportunity for community members to ensure the local area remains the beautiful and idyllic place it is currently by raising issues of concern directly with the Water Corporation. The Water Corporation recognises that the desalination project will have an impact on the lives and lifestyles of local residents. The CRG is a way to ensure that impacts are minimised and the unique quality of the local area is preserved. Members of the CRG can request information from the Water Corporation and play a leading role in guaranteeing the project remains accountable to the community.

This Community Reference Group will provide a local focus on a State-level strategic resource project. The CRG will broadly facilitate an advisory and community feedback role. It will act as communications channel between the project and the community and will provide ongoing information and advice on any impacts that may arise during the construction and operation of the SSDP. This will help the Water Corporation to build on a robust community engagement process.

Specific roles of the CRG include:

- To facilitate feedback to, and seek input from the community on the impacts of the construction and operation of the desalination project
- To provide on-going information and advice on any impacts that may arise during the construction and operation of the desalination project
- In conjunction with the Shire of Harvey, assist in developing a local benefits package of enhancement projects the Water Corporation can support to add value to the community
- To provide advice to the Water Corporation on the community engagement process
- To be a representative group which can validate community responses and recommendations about the project

- To be a well-informed source of information on what's happening with the project

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Community Reference Group is an independent group that reports its views to the Water Corporation SSDP project team. Deliberations of the Community Reference Group will be reported to the community through its members, through the project newsletter and through the Water Corporation website.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The CRG will have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Identify and discuss local impacts from the project and ways in which the impacts might be mitigated or managed.
- 2) Advise the Water Corporation on ways to engage the local communities to build strong community input and feedback to the project team
- 3) Act as a vehicle through which the local communities can voice their concerns and suggest ways to improve the project
- 4) Monitor community feedback and identify issues for action and/or discussion
- 5) Provide advice on the development of a local benefits package of enhancement projects that the Water Corporation can support
- 6) Help maximise community-wide support for the projects included in the local benefits package
- 7) Regularly report to the Water Corporation to help it assess overall progress on the project's community engagement process.

THE WATER CORPORATION'S COMMITMENT TO THE GROUP

The Water Corporation will undertake to:

- 1) Liaise with the CRG for advice on engaging with the community
- 2) Work with the CRG to ensure that community issues and concerns are understood and considered
- 3) Work with the CRG to help the needs and concerns of the community to be reflected in the solutions and strategies developed to manage impacts
- 4) Consider the CRG recommendations when developing a local benefits package, and work with the Shire of Harvey in finalising proposed projects
- 5) Provide feedback to the CRG, and to the broader community, on how the community's input has been used and incorporated into outcomes.

TERM AND MEETING FREQUENCY

It is anticipated the CRG will meet monthly before and during the construction period of the SSDP, but meeting frequency will be endorsed by the group at the first meeting.

Pending a decision from the CRG, the group may continue to meet less frequently during the operation period of the project to monitor impacts and continue to provide feedback.

MEETING PROCEDURES AND AGENDA

The agenda for each meeting will be formulated by the Executive Officer in consultation with the CRG. Agenda items should be sent to the Executive Officer one week prior to the meeting for inclusion in the Agenda. Agendas will be sent out to participants one week prior to the meeting.

Minutes will be circulated to participants within one week of the meeting. Minutes will be in the form of notes/action rather than a verbatim transcript, which may be posted on the Water Corporation website, subject to endorsement from the CRG.

The CRG Terms of Reference should be reviewed at least annually, or as determined, by the CRG.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Visitors are welcome to attend CRG meetings. Visitors are allowed to attend the CRG meetings as 'observers' and should not contribute to the discussion, until invited by the independent chairperson.

Guests are people invited to the CRG to provide advice or to give relevant presentations. Guests should be encouraged to contribute to the CRG discussion when appropriate.

DECISION-MAKING

Wherever possible, decision making will be by the consensus view of the CRG. A minimum of half the CRG is required to achieve a quorum.

The CRG will then present a resolution to the Water Corporation for consideration. The Water Corporation is committed to considering the resolutions presented by the CRG, but is not bound to follow or implement them.