



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

Southern Seawater Desalination Project

Release of Social Impact Assessment

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the Southern Seawater Desalination Project was released to the public on 14 May 2008.

The Water Corporation commissioned this SIA in August 2007 to build on its understandings of the project's social impacts.

Since that time we have worked closely with community members and stakeholders to understand their concerns about the desalination project which was announced by the Western Australian Government in May 2007.

The SIA has given us an insight into the potential social impacts arising from the desalination project.

Importantly, it comes to the conclusion that any negative social impacts associated with operation of the plant can be successfully managed to low levels through appropriate management actions.

It contains the following key recommendations for managing the social impacts of the project. We are happy to commit to these. Details on how you can get a copy of the SIA are included at the conclusion of this bulletin.

Community Reference Group

We will immediately call for nominations for a representative Community Reference Group (CRG), and it is our aim to have a working group in place by July.

Among its roles, the CRG will provide ongoing information and advice on any impacts that may arise during the construction and operation of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant. These will include issues that have already been raised in community meetings and the Social Impact Assessment – such as dust, noise, traffic, beach access and plant appearance – as well as others that may not yet have been identified.

It is anticipated that the CRG will include one representative from each of the Water Corporation, the Shire of Harvey, Binningup Community Association, Myalup Progress Association, Binningup Senior Citizens Association, Binningup Surf Lifesaving Club, Binningup Country Club and Golf Club and HDWSA.

We are writing to all of these organisations and inviting them to nominate representatives. The CRG will also include a community representative from Myalup and two from Binningup. We will advertise locally for people who wish to nominate for these positions.

The Water Corporation will provide administrative support to the CRG and an independent facilitator will be made available.

Local Benefits Package

Another important function of the CRG will be to provide advice on how best we should structure a local benefits package.

We see this as a long-term role for the group, and will look to the CRG to help develop a realistic package that is supported widely within the local community.

We would like to be in a position to start examining key elements of the package as soon as the group is formed so that we can begin implementing the first of these once approval for the construction of the desalination project is received.

Social Impact Management Plan

We will also work closely with the CRG and seek its advice on our Social Impact Management Plan.

Work on the development of this plan, which will outline in detail how potential social impacts will be managed and mitigated, will start as soon as the CRG is established.

This will again be an ongoing project, and the plan will be updated as necessary during the construction and operational phases of the project should new issues or community concerns be identified. The plan will incorporate these, and outline the strategies that will be put in place to manage and mitigate them.

Commitments Register

This document will clearly spell out our commitments in terms of the social impacts of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant and also outline our progress towards fulfilling these commitments.

The content of the register will be strongly influenced by the Social Impact Management Plan and the input and advice of the Community Reference Group.

How can I get a copy of the SIA?

There are a number of ways to get a copy of the SIA:

- From the Harvey, Binningup and Australind libraries.
- On our website at www.watercorporation/D/desalination_plant2.cfm
- By calling us on 1800 810 075 or emailing desalination@watercorporation.com.au