

Southern Seawater Desalination Plant | UPDATE

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We're bringing you news and other matters of interest involving the new seawater desalination plant that will be built at Taranto Road. It will complement our community newsletters and other communications.

Project update held last week

Two well attended community meetings in Binningup on Tuesday last week provided locals with an opportunity to be updated on the project by Project Director Nick Churchill and Project Environmental Manager Suzanne Brown.

Nick and Suzanne gave an overview of the possible terrestrial environmental impacts of the plant. These are all discussed in the Public Environmental Review (PER) document, released on Monday this week, along with all supporting reports. The Environmental Protection Authority has set an 8-week review period for the public to make submissions on the proposal as outlined in the PER. Submissions close 16 June 2008.

Visit http://www.watercorporation.com.au/D/desalination_plant2.cfm to read the Public Environmental Review document and the supporting studies or call 1800 810 075 for more information. Copies of the PER are also available in the Binningup, Harvey and Australind libraries.

The meeting also heard a temporary pilot plant will be established on the site in the next couple of months. This is basically a scaled down version of a common water treatment plant that fits into sea containers. It will be used by the two consortia bidding to build the plant, to establish the quality of the seawater in the area. Small pipes will be buried under the beach, which may result in a 24-hour beach closure.

Specific details about pilot plant's operation, including the timing of any beach closure will be communicated to the community when they are confirmed.

In a completely separate operation a drilling rig will be anchored offshore for about two weeks in May. The drilling work will be to establish the thickness and hardness of the sand and rock layer on the seabed.

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au or call 1800 810 075 for more information.



Coming Up

Community Meeting

Date: 30 April 2008, Time: tba

Venue: Binningup Water Sports Club

This Community Meeting will be held to discuss marine environmental issues and the release of the PER.