

Southern Seawater Desalination Plant | UPDATE 10

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

Community Reference Group

Recently, we advertised for interested members of your communities to nominate for positions on the Community Reference Group (CRG) we will be establishing very shortly to work with us on community related issues associated with the construction and ongoing operations of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant.

The establishment of a CRG was one of the key recommendations of the independent Social Impact Assessment (SIA) produced by engineering consultancy GHD and publicly released in the middle of last month. When we released the SIA, we committed to immediately taking on board this recommendation because it will enhance communication between those involved in the development of this essential water supply project and your communities.

We are confident that the CRG, which we expect will meet with us monthly from July, will build on the work we have done with your communities since the project was announced in May last year. Among its roles, the Group will provide ongoing information and advice on any impacts that may arise during the two-year construction phase and those envisaged after the commissioning of the desalination plant in 2011. The CRG is a way to ensure that impacts are minimised and the unique quality of the local area is preserved.

We anticipate these will include issues we have already raised in our community meetings, the SIA and the Public Environmental Review – such as dust, noise, traffic, beach access, plant appearance, marine, flora and fauna and others that may not yet have been identified. Another vital role of the CRG will be to provide advice on the type of benefits package that would be of most value to the communities.

While we will be approaching various organisations (such as the Shire of Harvey and Binningup and Myalup associations/clubs and the like), we see others in the community outside of the formal groups as essential to the CRG's success.

We are very keen to hear from as many people as possible. Please send expressions of interest or nominations to desalination@watercorporation.com.au or post to PO Box 100, Leederville, WA 6902. Attention: Carissa Buckland.



Remember: All submissions to the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the Public Environmental Review for the Southern Seawater Desalination Project must be with the EPA by 5pm on Monday, 16 June 2008.