

As part of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant, a pipeline carrying the new water source to the Stirling Trunk Main, north east of Harvey, will be constructed.

The Water Corporation has identified a *pipeline investigation area* as part of the preliminary design phase. A map of this area is attached to this brochure. Your property has been identified as being within this investigation area.

This document contains questions and answers for landowners on the pipeline selection process and potential impacts.

Background

The Western Australian Government announced on 15 May 2007 that the next major water source for WA would be the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant to be built at Taranto Road, north of Binningup, in the Shire of Harvey.

The plant will produce 50GL of water per year, with the potential to upgrade to 100GL per year, and will be powered by renewable energy.

A critical part of this project is the construction of approximately 30km of buried pipeline that will carry the new water source to the Stirling Trunk Main, north east of Harvey. To enable this transfer, a water storage facility is also planned for this area.

The broad schedule for the project is as follows:

- Approvals and design from 2007-08
- Construction from 2009 - 11
- Operational by 2011

Questions and answers

Property

Will the pipeline be on my property?

The pipeline route has not yet been determined. As part of the preliminary design phase, the Water Corporation has identified a *pipeline investigation area*. Your property has been identified as being within this investigation area. A map of this area is attached to this brochure.

Input from the Shire of Harvey and landowners is an important part of the pipeline selection process.

What does the pipeline selection process involve?

July and August 2007: Mapping by the Water Corporation to identify the pipeline investigation area's environmental constraints.

Early September 2007: Consultation with landowners and stakeholders.

Late September 2007: Selection of a preferred pipeline route by the Water Corporation. Environmental and geophysical (soil / geology) surveys will occur along the preferred route to determine viability.

October and November 2007: One-on-one meetings with landowners affected by the preferred pipeline route.

December 2007: Public display of pipeline route and water storage facility site.

Is the Water Corporation going to take private land?

The Water Corporation is not proposing to acquire ownership of land for the pipeline in rural areas. In these areas, the Corporation will seek a 15m *easement*, which will allow the Corporation to access, install, and maintain infrastructure on private land.

Like to know more?

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au

The landowner remains the owner of the land, with full rights to use the land (for farming purposes, etc). Easements are marked on a land title to identify the presence of infrastructure on land.

How much of my property could be affected?

Pipeline construction requires a corridor of up to 30m width for trenching, soil stockpiling and vehicles access.

Following construction, the pipeline is not visible. The only above ground features of the pipeline will be air valves, scour valve pits and marker posts – all of which are small in size and often located on property boundaries.

When will the Water Corporation access private property?

Following determination of the pipeline route, the Water Corporation will need to access land to conduct surveys. The surveys aim to identify the presence or absence of matters that could affect the pipeline route.

The types of surveys include:

- land survey (heights of land and location of existing infrastructure)
- geotechnical survey (soil type and composition)
- environmental surveys for flora and fauna
- Aboriginal heritage survey.

Only the geotechnical survey will involve ground disturbance. All survey work will be scheduled in consultation with the landowner and in most cases will be completed in a matter of hours.

How will the pipeline affect the use of my property?

The pipeline will be buried below ground and normal farming activities (such as grazing, pasture production, driving) are still allowed above the pipeline within the 15m easement.

The only restrictions relate to the planting of large trees (tree roots can damage the pipeline) and placement of permanent structures such as buildings.

How is my property protected during construction?

The Water Corporation will undertake the works in accordance with a Construction Management Plan. This management plan will cover matters including:

- stock protection (including temporary fencing)
- topsoil management
- fire prevention
- prevention of weed spread/soil contamination
- dust management
- traffic and vibration management
- rehabilitation of land
- restoration of infrastructure such as roads, fences and crossovers.

The details of the Construction Management Plan will be discussed with each landowner prior to construction works commencing.

How long will construction works take?

Pipeline construction can proceed at a rate of approximately 100m per day depending on ground and weather conditions.

Prior to the pipe being laid, preparation such as setting up fences, road diversions and the like is necessary. Excavation, pipe laying and backfilling are generally completed in a matter of weeks on each property. Other matters such as land restoration (seeding, ripping, laser levelling, etc) and restoration of fences and gates is completed as soon as reasonably practicable following pipeline installation.

How big will the excavated trench be?

The pipeline will be buried at a depth of approximately 2.5m to 4m below ground level with a minimum of 750mm soil cover.

Like to know more?

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au

The trench width during construction will be between 6m to 8m (depending on the soil stability), with the trench filled following construction.

How will land be restored?

All agricultural land will be seeded and fertilised in consultation with the landowner.

Laser-levelled irrigation paddocks will also be re-levelled. In areas where water flow is possible, clay cut-offs will be installed to prevent water movement between paddocks/properties along the pipeline length. Impacted roads and crossovers will also be restored or replaced.

Non-agricultural land will, where practicable, be restored and revegetated to reflect its natural native form.

How often will the Water Corporation access the property following pipeline installation?

The Water Corporation will need to inspect the pipeline and valves approximately once every few years. The Corporation will provide advance notice to the landowner of such inspections.

Can I get water from the pipeline once constructed?

No. The infrastructure that will be installed is for the bulk transfer of water at high pressure, which is not compatible with domestic water supply.

What are the Water Corporation's rights to enter private property?

The Water Corporation operates under the *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984* to enter land for the installation, operation and maintenance of public water infrastructure. The Water Corporation will issue each landowner a Notice of Entry prior to entry.

Will landowners be compensated?

The Water Corporation will compensate landowners for impacts to their land.

Landowners will be compensated for both the impact of construction (such as for the reduced

production of agriculture) and the impact of having an easement registered on the land title.

The value of compensation will be determined by independent land assessors in consultation with the landowner.

Water storage facility

What does the water storage facility include?

The water storage facility will consist of four 25ML water tanks that will be approximately 14m high and around 60m in diameter. A sump (or dam) will also be built.

Further detail on the water storage facility will be provided to the community later this year.

Where will the water storage facility be located?

The site for the water storage facility has not yet been determined. The facility will need to be built north east of Harvey. This will enable direct access into the Stirling Trunk Main via an existing regulating valve (water flow control valve).

How is the location of the water storage facility being decided?

The water storage facility must be built on a ridge within the landscape to enable optimal energy efficiency. A ridge north east of Harvey has been identified through preliminary investigations and constraints mapping.

Negotiations are currently underway with landowners in this area. Once agreement has been reached the Corporation will consult with surrounding landowners.

Will the water storage facility be visible?

The water storage facility will be located in area that has minimal visibility from surrounding land.

Like to know more?

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au

The environment and community

What approvals are required for the project?

The project will require approvals from various State agencies and the Shire of Harvey. Matters requiring approval include the environment, Aboriginal heritage and land use planning.

A number of studies and surveys will be undertaken in the next 12 months as part of the approvals process. The community will be informed of these studies as they become available.

How much vegetation will be cleared?

The pipeline route will be chosen to minimise disruption to environmentally sensitive areas.

Will Declared Rare Flora and priority species be impacted?

All Declared Rare Flora and priority flora will be avoided where possible. Similarly, native fauna will be afforded the highest protection throughout the duration of this project.

How will landowners be consulted?

If your property is affected by the pipeline, the Water Corporation will consult with you directly. As part of these discussions the Corporation would talk to you about property access, farming matters (such as stock control), easement creation and compensation for consequential loss.

Why is the Corporation communicating with landowners now?

The Water Corporation would like landowner input into the pipeline route selection process. Consulting early also enables landowners to understand the need for the public work, the process and potential impacts on their property, and their rights.

Once approvals have been obtained, affected landowners will be individually contacted to discuss matters such as:

- the procurement process
- construction schedules

- farm management
- land tenure / compensation process.

How can I have a say on the project?

The Water Corporation is committed to keeping the community, landowners and stakeholders informed during the project design and construction phases.

The Corporation will proactively seek community input through the environmental and planning approvals process.

Updates will continue to be provided on www.water.corporation.com.au