

**A** newsletter providing information on the latest developments in the planning and construction of Western Australia's second seawater desalination plant. This is the third community update, now in a new-look newsletter format.

In this issue:

- Independent report on the Kemerton Industrial Park
- The environment
- Communication: upcoming events
- Community tours
- The Binningup Desalination Action Group
- Did you know?

### Independent report on Kemerton Industrial Park

An independent review has confirmed the Water Corporation's contention that locating the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant at the Kemerton Industrial Park would result in significantly increased environmental risks, increased energy consumption, higher operating costs and an additional capital cost of between \$100 and \$200 million.

The review was undertaken by engineering consultancy, WorleyParsons following a similar study undertaken by the Corporation. The Corporation reached the conclusion that depending on where a Kemerton desalination plant was located the additional capital cost would be about \$150 million. It also identified additional energy requirements and environmental risks associated with the clearing of vegetation for a pipeline route extending several kilometres inland as major issues.

The WorleyParsons report on the Comparison of Sites in the Kemerton Industrial Park is available at [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au) or by contacting us.

### The environment

The Environmental Protection Authority recently allocated a 'Public Environmental Review' level of assessment for the plant, under the *Environment Protection Act 1986*.

A Public Environmental Review requires that the Corporation prepare an Environmental Scoping Document, to outline the environmental matters being assessed.

Following community and stakeholder consultation, the Corporation will then prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment to outline the environmental impacts of the project, assess those impacts, and explain how they will be managed.

The Corporation will open both documents up for public comment. The scoping document will be released in October 2007, and the impact assessment in early 2008.

As part of the environmental approvals process, the Corporation has engaged specialist environmental consultants to undertake a number of studies.

The studies include:

- Marine studies
- Field surveys for flora and fauna
- Noise monitoring
- Visual assessment
- Sustainability assessment
- Aboriginal heritage

#### Marine studies

These studies will identify the condition of the existing marine environment and predict the impacts from the plant on this environment. The marine studies include:

- Oceanography, hydrodynamic and coastal processes (**ocean movement**)
- Bathymetry, geotechnical and benthic habitat (**ocean floor**)
- Water quality monitoring
- Sediment and bio-monitoring (**aquatic marine health**)
- Brine dispersion studies (**outfall movement**)

#### Flora and fauna

These surveys will determine what plants and animals live in and around the proposed site and pipeline corridor to enable the protection

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of the native and endemic species, and the control of feral and weed species.

#### **Noise monitoring**

Noise studies will determine the baseline noise levels prior to the plant being built, so that after the plant is built, similar noise levels can be adhered to.

Preliminary findings from our noise modelling will be made available to the community from September 2007.

#### **Visual assessment**

The information gathered from the visual assessment will help shape the design of the plant to ensure visual impact is minimised. This will be determined in consultation with the community.

#### **Sustainability assessment**

The sustainability assessment will investigate the economic, social and environmental impacts of the plant over its lifetime. The environmental studies will help shape the environmental component of this assessment. A Social Impact Assessment will also be undertaken to analyse, monitor and manage any social consequences of the plant.

#### **Aboriginal heritage**

An Aboriginal heritage survey will be undertaken on the site and along the pipeline route to identify, monitor and manage any potential impacts on sites of significance. The Corporation will work with relevant Indigenous stakeholders as planning progresses.

#### **Communication: upcoming events**

In line with our commitment made in May 2007, the Corporation wants to work with the community in the planning and design of the plant. In the coming few months we will be holding a number of events.

#### **What: Pipeline from Taranto Road to North Harvey Landowner Workshop**

Where: Harvey

When: 5 September 2007

Why: Identify the values and constraints of the pipeline investigation area to help shape the route selection process

Who: Targeted workshop with landowners within the pipeline investigation area

#### **What: Project forum and 'walk in'**

Where: Binningup Country Club

When: 25 September 2007

Why: Project update and an opportunity for the community to meet the project team and ask questions about the project

Who: All community members and stakeholders

More information on these and other events will be advertised locally over the coming months.

Further community forums will be scheduled in the coming months.

#### **Community tours**

Would you like to tour the Perth Seawater Desalination Plant in Kwinana to learn more about desalination technology? Requests for tours can be made by contacting Operations Coordinator John Brislin on (08) 9725 5113, by calling 131375 or by emailing [desalination@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:desalination@watercorporation.com.au)

Tours of the desalination plant site at Taranto Road will also occur in the coming months. Watch this space for more details.

#### **The Binningup Desalination Action Group**

Over the past few months we have met with members of the Binningup Desalination Action Group (BDAG), the community-elected group. The Corporation is pleased to be working closely with BDAG to ensure that accurate information is provided to the community.

BDAG has asked many questions about the desalination plant. To date, the questions have covered the following areas:

- The site selection process
- The environmental and social impacts of the plant on the surrounding community
- The management of the marine and terrestrial environments

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- The pipeline route from Taranto Road to Harvey.

Most recently, BDAG asked about the distance of the inlet and outlets, which highlighted some confusion. The question and answer are provided below:

**Q.** *Why is the proposal now to place the inlet at 300 metres offshore and the outlet 150 metres offshore when we were assured at the public meeting that the inlet / outlet would be 500-800 metres offshore?*

**A.** *The comparison of sites and distances listed within the Site Alternatives Report, 2007 (300 / 150 metres) apply to the onshore only component of the outlet between the seawater pump station and the plant.*

*As advised at the public meeting in May 2007, the marine outlet pipe will be around 800 metres off shore and the marine inlet pipe 500 metres offshore.*

*The exact lengths and location is being determined by detailed marine survey and geological investigations.*

Some other important questions recently raised by BDAG and the answers to these are now available on our website at [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au).

### Did you know?

The Water Corporation has firmly committed to ensuring that:

- At the boundary of the desalination plant, noise levels will be below the sound of the ocean
- The plant will be virtually unnoticeable from the beach
- Lighting used at the plant will be no more intrusive than normal street lighting.

### Want more information?

*Would you like to know more about the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant?*

*Would you like to join our mailing list?*

#### Please contact us:

- **Email**  
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