

A newsletter providing information on the latest developments in the planning and construction of Western Australia's second seawater desalination plant.

In this issue:

- Major components of plant may be moved further back from the beach
- Planning investigations under way
- Monitoring buoy put in place
- Peer Reviewers to be engaged
- Communication: upcoming events
- Community tours
- Did you know?

Plant location

The Water Corporation has reached in principle agreement to purchase a 44-hectare block adjoining the eastern boundary of its coast front land at Taranto Road. The land was formerly a limestone quarry.

The land is about one kilometre inland from the ocean and is cleared, so could provide the Corporation with greater flexibility to manage the environmental and social impacts of the plant.

Purchase of the property would result in a review to establish how much of the plant's infrastructure could be built in the quarry. It is possible that the only vegetation that would need to be cleared on the existing wastewater treatment plant site would be a small amount for the seawater pump station and the pipeline from the station to the plant.

The Corporation has committed to building the most environmentally sustainable plant possible, that noise levels would be below the sound of the ocean, that it would be virtually unnoticeable from the beach and that lighting would be no more intrusive than normal street lighting.

We believe that all of these objectives could be more easily achievable by incorporating some parts of the plant at the new location. Community members will continue to be consulted as planning progresses.

Planning progress

The Corporation has engaged consultants to undertake a number of studies to assist with project design. Some of these studies have started and you may see field work taking place at Taranto Road and surrounds over the coming month. This work includes:

- Environmental surveys for flora and fauna.
- Geological investigation of ground conditions and land profiles.
- Aboriginal heritage surveys.
- Infrastructure surveys to identify existing infrastructure such as powerlines and telecommunications.

Other planning studies including noise monitoring, visual assessment, sustainability assessment and marine studies are also continuing.

Marine buoy

You will notice a new local in town soon. A Real Time Monitoring System (RTMS) Marine Buoy will be deployed approximately 800 metres offshore near Binningup this week. This is part of the Water Corporation's commitment to marine monitoring.

The buoy is approximately two metres tall and one metre in circumference. It will be secured to the ocean-floor and will remain offshore Binningup Beach indefinitely. The buoy will form an important part of the marine monitoring program for the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant. It will measure dissolved oxygen levels, electrical conductivity, temperature, wind speed and wind direction.

The buoy is fitted with tracking and communications devices to prevent theft or vandalism.

For more information on the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant:

Email desalination@watercorporation.com.au

Call 1800 810 075

Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902

Visit www.watercorporation.com.au

Peer reviewers

The Water Corporation is in the process of engaging recognised experts to critically examine the technical documents produced by the Corporation and provide feedback to community and stakeholder groups.

Peer reviewers will have international expertise in the relevant scientific fields including marine environments, ocean modelling and terrestrial impacts.

When these experts are appointed we will examine ways to ensure they are available to the community. Watch this space for more information in coming months.

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: 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

A workshop was held on Wednesday 5 September for landowners within the investigation area for the pipeline needed to transfer water from the plant to the Stirling Trunk Main near Harvey. Landowners were asked to identify values and constraints of the pipeline investigation area to help shape the route selection process.

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 1800 810 075 or by emailing 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.

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?

Previous community updates and other project information including question and answer documents can be found on our website or by calling us.

Please contact us:

- **Email**
desalination@watercorporation.com.au
- Call 1800 810 075
- Write to PO Box 100, Leederville WA 6902
- Or visit www.watercorporation.com.au