

# Southern Seawater Desalination Project

## Public Environment Review



In order to protect the environment, the Water Corporation is to complete a Public Environment Review (PER). This is a formal level of assessment set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The process will result in strict environmental conditions which must be met by law. A PER is a public process to ensure that the environment receives maximum protection.

A PER has two main elements:

- ❖ An Environmental Scoping Document which outlines the environmental studies we will carry out.
- ❖ A Public Environment Review Document which contains the findings of our environmental studies.

### Environmental Scoping Document

This sets out the environmental studies being undertaken for the desalination project. Some of these studies include:

- ❖ Marine environment
- ❖ Flora and vegetation
- ❖ Fauna
- ❖ River, creeks, wetlands and estuaries

- ❖ Coastal dunes and beaches
- ❖ Pollution
- ❖ Noise
- ❖ Visual assessment
- ❖ Aboriginal heritage
- ❖ Sustainability statement
- ❖ Social Impact Assessment

Once the Environmental Scoping Document has been completed, there will be a two week public review. We have chosen to release it for public comment because we recognise the high level of community interest in the desalination project. It will give you an opportunity to comment on the environmental studies that are to be carried out.

Questions for you to think about when reviewing the Environmental Scoping Document include:

- ❖ Do you think we have included all the necessary studies?
- ❖ Do you believe we have missed an important environmental value?

### Public Environment Review Document

The PER document will contain the results of our studies and assess the impacts of the proposed desalination plant, pipeline corridor and tanks. It also contains mitigation measures to manage and in some cases eliminate impacts. Management plans will also be included.

Once happy that the PER document has addressed all environmental factors, the EPA will release the document for an eight week public review. To ensure that as many members of the public as possible can view it, copies of the PER document will be available on our website and in the local libraries of Binningup and Harvey.

## PER Process

During this time, members of the public can make a submission on the proposal to the EPA. A submission will give you a chance to express your opinion and suggest a course of action, which could help improve the proposal. During this time we will be holding community forums should you wish to discuss any aspects of the PER.

The EPA will pass all submissions onto us, (they will be anonymous) and we will prepare a *Response to Submissions Document* for the EPA to consider (along with our PER) when preparing their advice to the Minister for the Environment (the EPA Bulletin).

The EPA Bulletin will assess the PER document, the level of public consultation and make recommendations on conditions of approval if the project is to proceed.

The Minister makes the final decision on whether the project should be approved and under what conditions.

### For more information on the Southern Seawater Desalination Project:

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