

Eyre Peninsula desalination project update



'Janette' powers ahead with tunnelling

Our tunnel boring machine (TBM) 'Janette' is progressing well, and has completed over 175 metres of tunnelling beneath the ocean floor.

TBM's use a powerful rotating cutter head and hydraulic drive to excavate underground and construct a tunnel. This work has been underway since late February and will continue throughout April with construction crews working across a 24-hour, 7 day a week schedule.

Tunnelling is a complex part of underground construction, and the work is carefully monitored for any unexpected mechanical issues, vibrations or environmental conditions. If any issues arise, we have protocols in place to ensure work stops and our work methods can be adjusted.

Our marine infrastructure contractor, McConnell Dowell, is now tunnelling through rock and while this work is a little slower, they continue to make steady progress. When complete, the tunnel will be able to accommodate the intake and outfall pipes, which will be installed from late April through to June 2026.

Desalination plant progress

Acciona, our lead contractor, has started constructing the terrestrial pipeline. This pipeline will connect the marine intake pump station, located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with the nearby desalination plant site.



The new desalination plant entrance off St Andrews Drive has been constructed and is marked by a new sign.

Additional bitumen will be laid on the surface of the entrance so it connects seamlessly to St Andrews Drive. This will require traffic management on St Andrews Drive, and vehicle speed limits will be reduced in the area.

To facilitate these works, our contractors will set up a temporary compound for equipment in the unsealed car park opposite the entrance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

These works will include Improvements to the surface of this carpark. Once we have finished our work in the area, the improved carpark will be available for the community to use.

Transfer pipeline progress and road closures

Our construction partner Leed has made significant progress on the construction of the 7 kilometre pipeline, which will transport desalinated water to the existing network via the Northside Hill Tanks.

Bitumen reinstatement of Proper Bay Road and the lower portion of Bluefin Road east of the railway line will be undertaken in the coming weeks. The contractor team is working closely with council to ensure the final reinstatement meets the required specifications.

The crew is currently working along Greyhound Road, with a portion of the road to be reconstructed. This will leave the community with an all-weather 2-way road, and improved access to Murray's Point and the wetlands.

Greyhound Road will continue be temporarily closed to keep the community safe.

Once the pipeline is installed, we will work with council on tree replanting program to replace vegetation which was removed during construction.

SA Power Networks update

Vegetation has been cleared along the unmade portion of Windsor Road, near Navigator College, to prepare for the installation of 6 power poles. This is part of extending the power network from the main city substation to Billy Lights Point.

The footings for the poles have been constructed, so expect poles to go up soon.

We are monitoring our truck movements in the area, particularly around the Navigator College entrance, to ensure minimal disruption to traffic.

Students explore engineering careers

In celebration of International Women's Day, students from Navigator College were recently welcomed on site by McConnell Dowell.

A group of budding engineers were given the opportunity to explore the range of careers available to women in construction.

Students heard inspiring presentations from engineers and environmental specialists before touring the project site, including the MIPS shaft, tunnel boring machine, and jacking pipes.



Farm water security workshop

An EP Farm Water Security workshop was held at Ungarra in February, bringing together growers and industry representatives to explore ways to strengthen on-farm water resilience.

Participants heard updates on water quality sampling and on-farm desalination, the EP Water Security Response Plan, followed by a site visit to observe a sheeted catchment in operation.

The workshop is part of the EP Farm Water Security Project, which supports improved water capture, storage and management for EP farmers.

Delivered in partnership by SA Water, the EP Landscape Board, PIRSA/SARDI, AWI Extension SA and Ag Communicators, the project provides resources and fact sheets available through the [Eyre Peninsula Farm Water Security Project page](#).



Stay informed and get in touch

Stay in the loop as our project takes shape. With construction now well underway, it is the perfect time to make sure you and those around you are receiving the latest updates.



Encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to scan the QR code and sign up for construction news, so no one misses out on important project progress.

If you have any questions or would like to chat with someone from our project team, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.



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