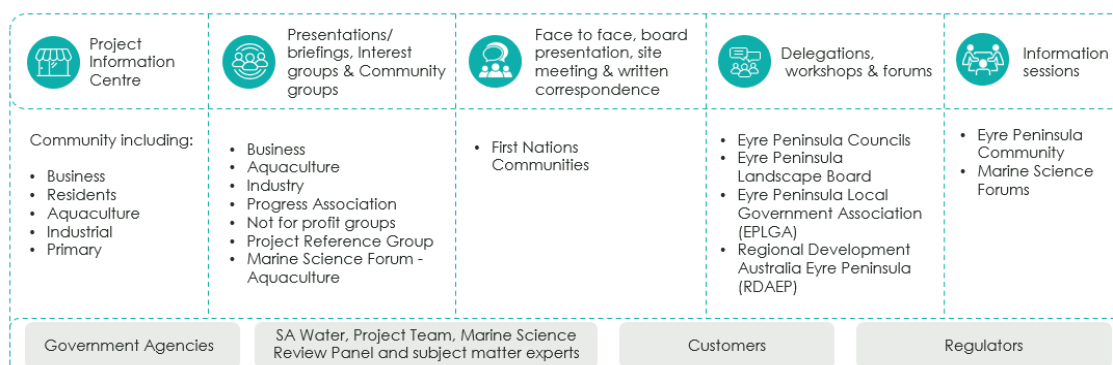


Water Planning management over the years

- A new seawater desalination plant located in the south of the Eyre Peninsula was identified as the preferred option to supplement future supply in a long-term plan developed with the local community and Natural Resources Management Board (now Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board), in 2008.
- The plan estimated the new water source would be required in approximately 2014-15 based on a medium demand projection, and 2011-12 based on a high demand projection.
- Development of the desalination plant was deferred in 2012 after improved groundwater recharge of the Uley South Basin that provides the majority of the Lower Eyre Peninsula's drinking water.
- Uley South Basin is the last remaining major productive groundwater source on Eyre Peninsula, currently supplying approximately 75 per cent of the region's drinking water. The basin refills when rain seeps through the soil into the underground aquifer – a process known as groundwater recharge. Extensive monitoring of water levels in different parts of the basin has shown a long-term trend of reduced recharge.
- In recent years, water levels in the southern groundwater basins have significantly declined, with levels in the Lincoln South groundwater basin identified in some wells as below sea level. Increasing salinity has also been detected in groundwater wells in the Uley South groundwater basin.
- The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has written to SA Water advising that in response to modelling data developed by the Department for Environment and Water, they will fast track the Water Allocation Plan review process with the intent to reduce SA Water's take from the Southern groundwater basins making it necessary for SA Water to find another source of water in order to meet current and future demand.
- The timeframe for delivery is critical, with a very real risk of irreversible damage to the Uley South Basin if current extraction rates continue beyond 2025-26. Without a desalination plant, we are unlikely to be able to supply water to Eyre Peninsula at current demand, and significant delays would likely lead to water restrictions.

SA Water engagement with the community

- As for all our major projects across the state, engagement with the community is imperative, and the support a number of external agencies has helped us facilitate this work through a number of channels and formats (see the image below). Some of these channels are ongoing.



- A dedicated information centre has been open since early April in Port Lincoln (6/50 Liverpool Street), for the community to come in at a time that suits them, to learn more information and ask questions about the project. The centre is open Tuesday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 12pm-6pm and Thursday 8am-3pm, or by appointment.
- We are continuing to seek engagement with local Aboriginal communities, including discussion on relevant heritage matters and job opportunities during construction of the desalination plant.
- To support a collaborative approach, we have also established a Project Reference Group, made up of eight community representatives from various sectors including local government, Regional Development Australia and agriculture industry. The purpose of the group is to discuss opportunities and issues relevant to the project to help inform the development application, design and the construction phase of the plant. The group have held four meetings to date.

BLP is the cheapest option

- A response to this question is available in the FAQ section of watertalks.sawater.com.au/getthefacts.

The science doesn't add up for Billy Lights Point

- A response to this question is available in the FAQ section of watertalks.sawater.com.au/getthefacts.

Pump water from the Tod Reservoir

- The Tod Reservoir is no longer used to supply drinking water, primarily due to the water's high salinity levels and inflow of residual chemicals due to historic farming practices. It was taken offline in 2002.
- A trialled desal project was implemented in 2007, which proved unsuccessful due to the chemical composition of the water.

Pump water from Knots Hill to Uley South

- The system pumps from Uley South to North Side Hill Tanks and cannot reverse feed into Uley South Basin. The system is designed and intended to send water to where the customer demand exists.
- A desalination plant will compensate for the required reduction in extraction from the Uley South Basin and will also enable the economic growth across the region.

Incomplete marine Science for Boston and Proper Bay

- The science has been completed, including the mid-field and near-field modelling. The outcomes of this work will be available for public review in the Development Application.

What happens during dodge tides?

- A response to this question is available in the FAQ section of watertalks.sawater.com.au/getthefacts.
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What temperatures will water be returned to the Bay

- Water is returned to the Bay at the same or a similar temperature to the ocean and no more than 2 degrees above ambient seawater temperatures.

Who is liable if things go wrong?

- SA Water desalination plant operations will be under licence from Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Under the EPA licence agreement, SA Water will be required to undertake rigorous monitoring in the ocean environment and demonstrate that the conditions under the licence are met and sustained.
- The monitoring program will have safe-guards in place should the environmental performance criteria be at risk of being met to enable adjustment to be made to the operation of the plant.

Is SA Water looking at recycled water?

- Currently there is no intention to recycle water for drinking purposes in the Eyre Peninsula.
- Port Lincoln already has a wastewater recycling scheme to irrigate parks and gardens. Most small towns on the Eyre Peninsula also have recycled water schemes in place for public parks and gardens.

Synopsis of water security for the region

- In 2008, SA Water released its long term plan water security plan which looked at a variety of water related issues including growth demand projections across Eyre Peninsula. This included review of different water source solutions to secure supply, revision of the network and its performance.
- Significant consultation took place with the Eyre Peninsula community, and as a consequence and following detailed analysis of numerous options, a southern desalination plant was selected as the preferred water security solution for the peninsula.
- This was unanimously supported at that time by community leaders given the solution was not reliant on climate and if located in the south of the Peninsula could benefit all SA Water customers across the Eyre Peninsula including in Port Lincoln.
- Development of the desalination plant was deferred in 2012 after improved groundwater recharge of the Uley South Basin that provides the majority of the Lower Eyre Peninsula's drinking water.
- After several successive years of low rainfall and reduced natural recharging, we now need to act and secure a new climate-independent water source for the region.

Water Security situation for Elliston and Streaky BayStreaky Bay

- In 2007, the town was connected to the SA Water network. Prior to this, Streaky Bay used to draw water from a local aquifer, the Robinson Lens.
 - SA Water provides drinking water to Steaky Bay which is a shandy mix from the Uley South Basin and the River Murray.
 - The network within Streaky Bay limits the amount of water that can be distributed and therefore the amount that can be made available for new
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connections. This is a network infrastructure issue and not currently related to supply.

- The proposed Port Lincoln desalination plant will also benefit Streaky Bay, however upgrades to the town network would be required to deliver the full benefit and enable urban growth.

Elliston

- Elliston currently receives water from the Bramfield Lens and is not connected to SA Water's network.
- The resource is closely monitored by Landscape Board and DEW.
- Rainfall during 2022-23 has recharged the resource adequately to enable continued supply for now.
- Should water availability from the Bramfield Basin decrease into the future, a new pipeline to connect to SA Water's proposed desalination plant in Port Lincoln is likely to be the most cost-effective solution.

Has Cloud Seeding been investigated?

- A seawater desalination plant is widely accepted as a solution for the Eyre Peninsula region as it delivers a non-climate dependant source of water to the region, thereby ensuring water security for the long-term future.

Why was Shoal point ruled out?

- Environmental and financial concerns, together with the inability to construct the plant in time to deliver water, prompted the removal of Shoal Point as a possible site for the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant.
- Specifically, the site proved to be extremely challenging with 30 – 40 metre high cliffs and large ocean swells which posed significant challenges for construction, worker safety and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.
- The Site Selection Committee also ruled out this site for similar reasons.

Northern water supply should be considered

- A response to this question is available in the FAQ section of watertalks.sawater.com.au/getthefacts.
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