

Eyre Peninsula desalination project update

Key contractors announced as desalination project moves forward

The Eyre Peninsula desalination project continues to progress, with major contractors confirmed to deliver the desalination plant and supporting marine infrastructure.

ACCIONA, which led the Early Contractor Involvement phase, has been awarded the full contract to deliver the desalination plant and will manage the overall project construction. McConnell Dowell, a globally recognised leader in marine construction, has been engaged to deliver the marine infrastructure components. McConnell Dowell's work includes the ocean intake and outfall which involves tunnelling beneath the ocean floor to minimise disturbance to the coastline.

South Australian-based construction company Leed will design and construct the transfer pipeline which will deliver safe, clean drinking water from the new plant to the existing water distribution network. Environmental management remains a key priority, with recent design and construction adjustments reducing the project's environmental footprint.

Full construction begins following successful early works

With our project partners now confirmed and detailed designs complete, the project has reached a major milestone by entering full construction, taking a significant step forward in securing a long-term, climate independent water supply for the Eyre Peninsula.

This follows the successful completion of early site preparation activities, including native vegetation clearing, removal of the old rail embankment, installation of a new access road and truck wheel wash, and topographic and geotechnical investigations. At the Marine Intake Pump Station (MIPS), safety barriers have been installed, and decommissioning of in-ground services is progressing.

Current construction activities are focused on civil works within the former lagoon area to prepare the site for the MIPS, as well as backfilling of obsolete lagoon sections to create a construction laydown area, where materials, equipment, and tools will be stored temporarily until needed. Excavation and construction of the pump station guide wall are progressing and steadily laying the foundation for the marine intake and outfall pump station.



At the same time, existing services at the nearby wastewater treatment plant that are no longer required are being decommissioned to make way for the construction.

Additional works such as further geotechnical investigations, clearing along the terrestrial pipeline corridor, and finalising access roads are also underway. These activities are laying important groundwork for the next stages of the project, which involve preparing a launch shaft for trenchless marine tunnelling, advancing piling operations and the delivery of the tunnel boring machine at the MIPS site. Other tasks include initiating trench excavation and slab works at the desalination plant site and commencing installation of the transfer pipeline. Altogether, these initiatives are steering us toward the anticipated first water delivery by the end of 2026.

Safety reminder: please be cautious in construction areas and be mindful of increased truck activity

As work continues at the desalination plant site, the existing wastewater treatment facility, and along the transfer pipeline alignment, we would like to thank the community for your patience and ongoing support. We also want to remind everyone to be safety conscious if walking near or through areas marked for construction.

While some paths may appear accessible, many cross through private land where active construction is underway. For your safety, please avoid entering any areas marked off-limits, and if you must walk nearby, remain alert, stay clear of machinery, and follow any signage or directions.

Additionally, increased truck activity on St Andrews Drive at Port Lincoln will begin in early August 2025, as our contractor Acciona progresses with the construction of the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant. Approximately 20 truck movements per day are expected, Monday to Friday between 7.00am and 5.00pm, transporting fill material to the site.

Members of the community travelling along St Andrews Drive to the boat ramp are advised to be aware of trucks turning in and out of our site and to exercise caution.

Keeping our community safe is a shared responsibility, and your cooperation makes a real difference for our workers and your own wellbeing.

Electricity connection and transfer pipeline

Significant progress continues connecting the desalination plant to the local electricity network and advancing the associated transfer pipeline works.

Cable installation by SA Power Networks in Port Lincoln has now been completed, marking a major step in connecting the desalination plant to the electricity distribution network from the Port Lincoln city substation. Directional boring was successfully carried out under Mortlock Terrace between Tennant and Verran Streets.

Night work took place over five nights at the corner of Proper Bay and Windsor Avenue, with excavation extending the full length of Windsor Avenue. Additional work near Navigator College was successfully undertaken during the July school holidays to reduce disruption. Traffic management remains in place, and residents and businesses affected by the work have been kept informed. Work will now focus on installing above-ground power poles along the unmade portion of Windsor Avenue, extending from Navigator College down to Greyhound Road.

Meanwhile, Leed Engineering has been moving forward with transfer pipeline works, including vegetation clearing and tree trimming in the areas around Greyhound Road, Bluefin Road, and Proper Bay Road. The first round of clearing from the desalination plant to Greyhound Road has finished, and the cleared vegetation is being mulched and transferred to Uley South for general land management purposes.



Vegetation clearing along transfer pipeline alignment

Meet the Buyer session: Opportunities for local suppliers

As the project moves forward, strengthening connections with local businesses continues to be a priority. To support local suppliers and subcontractors, Leed will be hosting a Meet the Buyer session on Thursday, 31 July 2025 from 2:00pm - 4:30pm. The session will be held at the SA Water Project Information Centre - 6/50 Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln.

Local businesses interested in supporting the project are encouraged to attend and meet the Leed project team to explore collaboration opportunities.

Community engagement remains a priority

On 4 July, we provided a project update to the Port Lincoln Probus Club. The presentation covered recent progress and upcoming milestones. If other groups or organisations would like a project update, please contact us directly via the contact details listed at the end of this newsletter.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with community members and groups to share information and answer questions about the project.

Eyre Peninsula water security

Ensuring a reliable long-term water supply continues to be a major priority across the Eyre Peninsula. Our Water Security and Futures team is actively engaging with local communities about the [Water Security Response Plan](#) and water efficiency measures for the region. With the show season approaching, the team is preparing to connect with residents across the region to share information and discuss sustainable water practices.

As part of ongoing community initiatives, the fourth Primary Producers Roundtable was held on 5 June 2025. Farmers and industry representatives discussed water security in the region, and heard updates from the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board and SA Water, and were briefed on the upcoming EP Farm Water Security program, and the [drought support package](#).

These initiatives focus on community engagement, promoting water-saving initiatives, and supporting the long-term sustainability of the region's water resources. Community groups interested in hosting a presentation or learning more are encouraged to contact us via

EyrePeninsulaWaterSecurity@sawater.com.au

or visit sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity.

Stay informed and get in touch

Thank you to everyone who has registered to receive project updates. Now that we are in the construction phase, we encourage people to stay informed by signing up for notifications.



If you would like to receive these updates, please register by scanning the QR code.



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