

C5240 Eyre Peninsula Desalination Augmentation Marine Science Review Panel (MSRP)

Date	9/12/2022	Time (ACST)	Start: 10.36am, End: 12.28pm	
Meeting No.	06	Venue	Online, via Webex	
Attendance Ab = Absent Ap = Apologies P = Present	Chair - Dr Don Plowman (DP)	P	Dr Anu Kumar (AK)	P
	Dr Ian Wallis (IW)	P	Dr Alistair Hobday (AH)	Ap
	Dr John Luick (JL)	P	Dr Hazel Vandeleur (HV) (SAW representative)	P
	Prof Sean Connell (SC)	Ap	Executive Officer (TSA)	P
	David Henchcliffe (Deputy Project Director)	P		

The sixth meeting of the Marine Science Review Panel for the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project was held on the 9th of December 2022. The meeting began with an acknowledgement of the country.

The agenda for this meeting of the Panel included updates from the Deputy Project Director on the project progress and from MSRP Chair's meeting with the Site Selection Committee (SSC), reviewing amended Oceanographic modelling report, amended Habitat Mapping report, and amended Ecotoxicity Data Review report and Water Quality report.

At the meeting, Panel members were updated with the following:

- status of the marine environmental investigation since the last meeting
- the progress of the project and important milestones of the project
- MSRP's Chair meeting with the SSC on the 9th of November 2022
- MSRP's Chair meeting with SA Water Board on the 24th of November 2022

Due to apologies from the experts at the meeting, the amended Habitat Mapping report was not considered. The experts for this subject will review and provide their comments on the report via email to the Panel to advise if their recommendations have been appropriately addressed and would be accessible to the stakeholders and other Government Agencies

The remaining Panel members reviewed and discussed the 3 reports and outcomes from the Panel's discussion are summarised below:

Panel had no objections to the contents of the reports. The details of some of the presentations in the information would need further work.

Requests for further tests to the previous version of the Oceanographic Modelling Draft report have been largely incorporated in this version of the report. These assumptions used within the report result in the model being overly conservative as it models a larger plant than being proposed. Even with this overestimation, the modelling increase in salinity meets relevant guidelines for salinity changes and predicts minimal regional changes above the background salinity. Additionally, the report presents modelling results of particle entrainment in the inlet pipe of the proposed plant which indicates less than 0.1% of spawned biomass is likely to be at risk.

Ecotoxicity Data Review Report provides evidence to support the recommended dilution 40:1 is reasonable, although such information presented in the report would indicate that this dilution ratio is conservative for the discharge of chemicals used in the desalination process and brine released back into the marine environment. Dilution of discharge can be met within the design performance criteria and most species will not be impacted with the proposed dilution criteria.

Panel noted that the impacts of salinity on specific species and the wider ecological impacts will form a large part of the marine impact assessment within the Development Approval process, required to be completed before construction begins.

In the Water Quality, the Panel noted several moderate levels of lead and zinc in some samples and the occasional detection of moderate levels of ammonia. In addition, the Water Quality report will continue to be undertaken and updated with new water quality results being entered periodically.

SAW have been asked to make the four reports in today's MSRP meeting available to the stakeholders and other Government Agencies, once the reports have addressed the Panel's comments and recommendations. The SSC will meet on the 19th of December, and part of their meeting will focus on the information from these reports and Panel representatives could be present to clarify any questions from the Committee if needed.