SA Water

October 2026

Eyre Peninsula desalination project update

We've reached another major milestone

The recent completion of the marine tunnel is a significant step for the project, with contractors McConnell Dowell finishing construction of the 440-metre long tunnel beneath the seafloor.

This marine infrastructure was created by our tunnel boring machine (TBM) Janette. The tunnel will soon have the intake and outfall pipelines in place, which will transfer water to and from the new desalination plant.

Hard granite underground slowed down marine tunnelling, which required a change to the project timeline; first water from the desalination plant is now expected by the end of June 2027.

Having safely made it through the granite, we're continuing to ramp up construction of the next stage of marine works. In parallel, crews are making significant progress on the reverse osmosis plant infrastructure, and continue working to the revised delivery date.

It's important to note the revised project timeline is not expected to affect the community's water security level, or result in water restrictions. This is because our groundwater allocation and River Murray supply are sufficient to meet current customer demands until the desalination plant is commissioned.

Dredging for marine infrastructure

Dredging to prepare for marine infrastructure is ongoing, with 2 of the 3 zones designated for dredging now complete.

This work means the trench and placement of rock for the brine diffuser foundation is now complete, along with the channel for the outfall pipeline. There will be a final stage of dredging which will support retrieval of the TBM Janette, and installation of foundations for the intake structure.



Aerial view of construction of the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Plant's marine infrastructure.

Plant construction progress update

Construction of the reverse osmosis (RO) plant continues to progress.

We're currently focused on completing supporting infrastructure, including the chlorination system, and surrounding pavements, while fabrication and installation of pipework also continues.

Works on the process lagoon are nearing completion, and the final lining is being installed within the treated water storage tank.

Commissioning activities are also advancing, with the high-and low-voltage switchrooms now energised.

The RO and ultrafiltration control panels are expected to be energised and commissioned in the coming weeks as the project moves closer to delivery of this component of the project.



We continue to make progress on the reverse osmosis plant's infrastructure.

Increased traffic management at Billy Lights Point

We're continuing construction of the terrestrial pipeline, which links the marine intake pump station with the desalination plant.

This means we will have traffic management crews on Saint Andrews Drive as works continue in the area. It's anticipated these crews will be safely directing local traffic for the next month.

Works will also be progressing to a 24-hour construction schedule during this time, with our contractors Acciona deploying noise controls in line with a plan that has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority.



Construction is underway around Saint Andrews Drive, with traffic management on site.

Rebate offer extended

To help everyone on the Eyre Peninsula keep saving water, we have extended availability of our rebates for water efficient fixtures and appliances.

Rebates will now be available until 30 June 2027. Residents in eligible postcodes on the Eyre Peninsula can access rebates on a range of water-efficient products, including showerheads, dual-flush toilets, washing machines, pool covers and irrigation timers.

The program aims to help households reduce water use and save money by upgrading to more efficient fixtures and appliances.

Visit our website to find out more about available rebates and eligibility requirements.

Sharing the message

We've been busy sharing water saving tips, information on rebates for water efficient appliances, and project updates.

Our teams were at the Wudinna and Cummins shows and Oysterfest, which were great opportunities to connect with the community and spread the water-efficiency message.



Our teams have been out and about; we're here to support everyone on the Eyre Peninsula to keep saving water.

Stay informed and get in touch

Our newsletter aims to keep you in the loop as our project takes shape.

Scan the QR code and sign up for construction news to get important project progress.

If you would like to chat with someone from our project team, please get in touch.

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