

## Eyre Peninsula desalination project update



### Tunnel boring machine named and ready to go

A tunnel boring machine (TBM), measuring 9 metres long and weighing over 61 tonnes, recently arrived in Port Lincoln to support construction of the Eyre Peninsula desalination plant at Billy Lights Point.

At a special naming ceremony, in line with a longstanding industry tradition, the tunnel boring machine was given a woman's name in honour of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of tunnellers and miners.

The machine was named 'Janette' in honour of Janette Hannum Octoman MBE, a pioneering Tumby Bay civic leader and long-serving advocate for women through the South Australian Country Women's Association (CWA). She made significant contributions to her community, include serving as president of the Eyre Peninsula and South Australian branches of the CWA, and was a founding member of the Tumby Bay branch.

Together with McDowell Dowell, our contractors delivering the project's marine infrastructure, we hosted a naming ceremony attended by members of Janette's family, CWA representatives, the City of Port Lincoln Mayor and the project team.

With the tunnel boring machine named, a 16-metre-deep shaft is being prepared for tunnelling, and a small statue of Saint Barbara will be placed over the tunnel's entrance for the protection of all workers.



'Janette' will soon begin her journey under the shoreline to create a tunnel for the intake and outfall pipes. The machine's powerful rotating cutterhead and hydraulic drive will carefully bore through sand and soil under the seabed, constructing a tunnel of 2.5 metres in diameter and 435 metres in length.

The tunnel boring machine will also safely transport excavated material back to the surface, which will then be stored in the former wastewater treatment plant lagoons.

Tunnelling is expected to begin in February, and will continue for about 12 weeks.

### Desalination progress

A new entrance to the construction site has been opened off Saint Andrews Drive. This will be the main entrance for our lead contractor Acciona in the construction phase, and the operational team when the plant is up and running.

More bulk and detailed earthworks will continue at the plant site throughout February.

Construction of the terrestrial pipeline, which connects the desalination plant to the marine intake pump station, is also under way.

### Transfer pipeline progress

Three quarters of the pipeline has been installed, mainly along Proper Bay and Blue Fin roads, with over 4,700 metres of pipe already laid.

The railway line on Blue Fin Road has been reinstated, with Leed Engineering continuing to advance these works.

Greyhound Road is the next section to be constructed, with the entire pipeline already strung along the route.

A portion of Greyhound Road, opposite the wetlands, will be reconstructed and improved once the pipeline work is complete. This will require the temporary closure of this section in the coming months, so please take note of the signs if you are travelling in the area.

### SA Power Networks update

To connect power to the Billy Lights Point site, 6 power poles will be installed on the unmade portion of Windsor Avenue.

Prior to this, some vegetation will be cleared, and an access track constructed.

The power poles will be installed in the coming weeks, so please be aware of construction activities in this area.

### Spreading the 'save water' message at Tunarama

SA Water connected with the Port Lincoln community during Tunarama, sharing tips on how to save water in and around the home.

The event attracted more than 20,000 people, with strong engagement and many meaningful conversations with thousands of locals. Tunarama once again highlighted the region's unique character, strong community spirit and industry pride.

As a major sponsor, we were proud to support the festival through naming rights for both the SA Water Sand Sculpture Competition and the SA Water Wise Artwork & Art Competition, judged by our representatives, alongside local artist Rebecca Palmer.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who visited our stand and helped make this year's Tunarama a memorable success.

Community groups interested in hosting presentations or learning more are encouraged to contact the team at

**EyrePeninsulaWaterSecurity@sawater.com.au** or visit **sawater.com.au/EPwatersecurity**.

Together, we're building a secure and sustainable water future for the Eyre Peninsula.



### 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 feel free to get in touch. We would love to hear from you.



0477 448 544



epdesal@sawater.com.au



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