SA Water

February 2025

Eyre Peninsula desalination project update

Desalination Plant Billy Lights Point

The Eyre Peninsula desalination project at Billy Lights Point received development approval in December 2024 enabling the project to proceed into the construction phase. This is a significant step forward in ensuring long-term water security for the region.

The project consists of three main components:

1. The desalination plant to be constructed on former industrial land once owned and operated by BHP for exporting mineral sands.
2. Marine Intake Pump Station (MIPS) located in a now redundant area of the wastewater treatment plant and will include both the marine intake and outfall pipes.
3. A treated water transfer pipeline from the desalination plant to the North Side Hill tanks to take desalinated water into the drinking water network.

What we are doing

Early works for the project are being completed in stages, with Stage 1 now finalised and Stage 2 to occur in late February/March 2025:

Stage 1 - Completed

- Removal of rubbish, including 303 vehicle tyres and 13 tonnes of general waste.
- Environmental testing of soil and materials on site.
- Vegetation clearing to enable site security fence in readiness for construction.

Stage 2 — Late February to March 2025

Stage 2 early works will run from late February 2025 through to March 2025. Most works will take place Monday to Saturday, between 7:30am and 5:00pm, weather permitting.

- Clearing of vegetation adjacent to the MIPS and the relocation of logs to Uley South for wildlife habitat.
- Vegetation clearance along St Andrews Drive between the desalination plant site and the wastewater treatment plant site.
- Construction of a new access road from St Andrews Drive into the wastewater treatment plant site to enable construction of the MIPS.
- Site office and amenities to be established within the wastewater treatment plant site.
- Clearance of vegetation from St Andrews Drive to the new desalination plant and the construction of a new entrance road

Following these early works, construction on the desalination plant and MIPS is expected to start in late March. Construction of the transfer pipeline from the desalination plant to North Side Hill tanks is not expected to start before mid-2025.

Where we are working

All work will occur on the desalination plant site, within the wastewater treatment plant site or within SA Water easements. Some works will be visible from St Andrews Drive and may require traffic management.

These works will be limited to the southern side of St Andrews Drive from the new entrance into the desalination plant and the MIPS access road. This may result in some minor delays for those travelling to the Billy Lights Point boat ramp. Please refer to map below.

Concept only - design progressing

What to expect

Some noise can be expected at times during these early works, however, the work will be managed to minimise disturbance to nearby properties and is expected to be very localised in nature.

Sign up for updates

We would like to ensure you remain up to date with information about the construction activities, when they are occurring and what to expect.

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

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these works in more detail, please contact us directly

0477 448 544 epdesal@sawater.com.au

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these important activities.

Government of South Australia