

Eyre Peninsula desalination project update



Building a secure water future for Eyre Peninsula

It's been a big year for the Eyre Peninsula desalination project, and we have seen the project progress from development approvals to early works, and then into construction.

As we near the end of 2025, we are looking back at some of the project's milestones, as well as what's in store for 2026.

Marine intake pump station progress

McConnell Dowell, our contractors in charge of the marine infrastructure component, continue to make headway. Excavation of the impressive vertical shaft is complete, as shown in the photos above.

This hole has been dug within the existing SA Water Wastewater Treatment Plant, and will be home for the tunnel boring machine. Its components are expected to start arriving on site before the end of the year, and the last task before Christmas is to pour the base slab.

Fast facts about our 2025 progress:

- The shaft is 16.5 metres deep underground
- Shaft has been fully excavated, with 112 piles installed. They have been installed as secant piles, which means they interlock, creating a solid barrier.
- This component of the project required more than 14,000 hours of work by McConnell Dowell and subcontractors
- Tunnel boring machine (TBM) to arrive in December.



Desalination progress

On the plant site, our lead contractor Acciona has also been busy.

The site compound has been completed, and construction the internal road network and temporary stormwater management infrastructure is also well underway.

Installation of a new sign at the entrance will make it easier to locate, both for contractors and members of the community.

Transfer pipeline progress

Proper Bay Road has been a hive of activity for Leed Engineering, who are constructing the pipeline.

More than 420 metres of pipe has already been installed along Proper Bay and Blue Fin roads. Traffic management has been in place, with our contractors closing off access to one side of the road to allow traffic to still run. Thank you to everyone in the community for your ongoing patience while this important work continues. Rock breaking activities higher up on Blue Fin Road have been successful, with crews using controlled and non-invasive techniques to cut through hard granite.

As part of pipe laying work, a portion of Greyhound Road opposite the wetlands will be reconstructed and improved. This will require the temporary closure of this section of Greyhound Road in the coming months, so please take note of the signs if you are travelling in the area.

New partnership unlocking more recycled water

More than 60 million litres of drinking water are expected to be saved each year in Port Lincoln as part of a new recycled water partnership between SA Water, the City of Port Lincoln and the Department for Education.

The more than \$1 million project will support the transition of existing mains water irrigation supply at two council reserves in the regional centre to a safe, highly treated supply of recycled water.

This investment will also fund preliminary investigations into the expansion of recycled water at select local public schools, along with significantly increasing the use of recycled water at SA Water's Port Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Recycled water in Port Lincoln is safely treated and cleaned at the City of Port Lincoln's recycled water treatment plant, which is operated and managed by SA Water, before the resulting recycled water supply is used for irrigation purposes at local green spaces.



Talking water security across the Eyre Peninsula

Our Water Security and Futures team has had an exciting 2025 engaging with local communities to share information about water security and rebates.

Fast facts about our 2025 community engagements:

- Held more than 20 community pop-ups
- Attended the Norwood v Crows match
- Mixed with the crowd at the Mortlock Shield
- Answered questions, and tasted oysters, at Ceduna Oysterfest
- Joined country shows, including Port Lincoln, Wudinna, Kimba, Cummins and Cleve

A highlight was attending the Wudinna Area School R-8 Water Exhibition in August, with students showcasing an amazing range of water projects, podcasts and showbags, impressing us with their research and understanding of water security.

The team will be kicking off 2026 by attending Tunarama, with more engagement planned for the rest of the year.

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

The newsletter will be taking a short break over December, and will return in January 2026. 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.



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