

EP Desalination Project: MSRP Meeting – November 2023

Project Name	EP Desalination Project					
Purpose	Regular MSRP Meeting (10)					
Date	23/11/2023			Time	1330 (ACST)	
Venue	ADP & Online (Webex)					
Attendance Ab =Absent Ap=Apologies P=Present	Dr Don Plowman MSRP Chair	P	Dr Anu Kumar MSRP	P	Prof Sean Connell MSRP	Ap
	Dr Ian Wallis MSRP	P	Dr John Luick MSRP	P	Dr Beth Fulton MSRP	P
	Dr Hazel Vandeleur SA Water EP Environmental lead	P	David Henchcliffe SA Water EP Project Director	Ap	Tiani Zollo Semmler SA Water – Executive Officer	P

The tenth meeting of the Marine Science Review Panel for the Eyre Peninsula Desalination Project was held on the 23rd of November 2023. The meeting began with an acknowledgement of country.

The agenda for the Panel's meeting included project update including further discussions and reviews regarding draft marine design and preliminary modelling findings.

The panel also reviewed interim results for the site habitat mapping as well as the current marine monitoring studies program progression.

Outcomes from the Panel's discussion is summarised below:

In terms of current design, the MSRP agreed and support that a design and construction option that minimises impacts to the marine environment be used. This includes using current bathymetry data and avoiding known patches of seagrass which was mapped recently as part of SA Water's Marine Studies.

The panel also suggests that green engineering, allowing the marine infrastructure/anchor blocks to be used as potential artificial reefs for threatened shellfish (ie native oysters) option should be considered and implemented as design continues.

An update was given by SA Water of the interim marine design. The panel agreed that the Early Contractor Engagement (ECI) engineering team hydrodynamic modelling (undertaken to validate their detailed design) will be an essential report required for the development application.

Given the outcome of the Marine Science Forum held in September, the panel is confident that there are no concerns with input of the MSRP. The MSRP recommended that SA Water consider engaging with a science communicator who can continue to help our engagement team going forward especially near-mid field modelling continues.

The panel will review new aquaculture re-zoning information and determine any potential/conceived impacts with the development of the EP desalination project. The MSRP will continue to encourage inter-government agency collaboration in regard to 'Whole of Bays' monitoring as this will bring efficient and better outcomes for all stakeholders.

The panel discussed that that the program and proposal should highlight the importance in terms of climate change assessment and monitoring with a view to leverage and consolidating funding to undertake the monitoring.

Next meeting

Delivering trusted water services for a sustainable and healthy South Australia

The panel agreed to meet in February 2024. The next meeting will allow for further discussions regarding the progression of developing the marine design and associated modelling as well the marine studies program.