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MEDIA RELEASE

DESALINATION PLANT ON TRACK DESPITE FIRST WATER DELAY

SA Water has undertaken an analysis of the \$1.83 billion Adelaide Desalination Plant's delivery program confirming the total project remains on track for completion by December 2012, despite some key delays to the first water milestone.

AdelaideAqua D&C Consortium – the group responsible for the design and construction of the 100 gigalitre plant and marine works – confirmed to SA Water in December 2010 that there would be a delay in delivering first water from the first 50 GL plant to the end of July this year.

SA Water Chief Executive John Ringham said SA Water had been working with the Consortium to undertake a forensic analysis of construction timelines and identify the major causes of delay to the first water milestone.

“Our team has been working through AdelaideAqua’s program and found that inclement weather, challenging ground conditions, supplier delays and site safety investigations are the main reasons for the delay,” Mr Ringham said.

“What this now means is that the first 50 GL plant can start producing desalinated drinking water by the end July 2011 and will reach capacity by the end October 2011. These milestone dates are however, subject to very delicate and intricate work being undertaken by the Consortium below sea level to connect the seawater intake tunnel and intake riser.”

“AdelaideAqua has also advised us that the overall project completion date, incorporating the 100 GL expanded plant, remains within the Government and Parliamentary Public Works Committee’s approved timeline of the end of December 2012.”

Details behind the reasons for delay to the first water are as follows:

- ground conditions causing construction challenges at the tunnel cross-connection under the seabed;
- inclement weather;
- safety investigations on site; and
- delays in supply and installation of electrical infrastructure.

“We are continuing to work closely with AdelaideAqua to ensure safety, quality, durability and environmental compliance remain at the highest levels,” Mr Ringham said.

“We have been reassured by AdelaideAqua that safety remains a key priority on the construction site and we will not jeopardise this to rush the project’s completion.”