

October 18, 2007

## Media Release

# WATER OUTAGE IN PORT AUGUSTA EAST AND STIRLING NORTH

Port Augusta East and Stirling North have been without water today, following a burst along the Morgan to Whyalla pipeline.

The burst occurred last night just after 7pm, and SA Water crews have been working throughout the night to repair the main.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham said there were four bursts along the pipeline. These include one on the northern end of the Great Western Bridge, Stirling Road, National Highway 1 in Stirling North and approximately 27km south of Port Augusta adjacent to the railway line.

“SA Water crews are working to repair the bursts and we hope to return supply by later today,” Mr Ringham said.

“The cause of the bursts is being investigated but it appears a pressure reducing valve that controls the pressure and flow into the city may have malfunctioned.

“We have been working with the local hospital, schools and the general community to ensure all of our customers have enough drinking water until the supply is restored.

“We are very grateful for the support of the local community.”

To assist with the recovery of the water supply network, restrictions will be eased for the eastern side of Port Augusta and Stirling North for this weekend only.

Drippers, hand-held hoses, watering cans and buckets will be allowed during the following times:

- Even numbered houses - all day Saturday (12.01am to 11.59pm)
- Odd numbered houses - all day Sunday

The slight relaxation of restrictions will help flush air from the network following four major bursts along the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline.

Mr Ringham said no sprinklers would be allowed.

“When repair work of this scale is undertaken, it is necessary to bleed air from the system and this means releasing a certain amount of water,” Mr Ringham said.

“We recognise this is not ideal given the current drought and so we are looking at ways where Port Augusta residents can use some of the water instead.

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"If residents use their dripper systems or hoses for a little longer on the weekend this will help speed up the flushing process and help us restore the system to normal operation.

"The community will notice some milkiness in the water as air is purged from the system

"We are also discussing options for the Council to make use of some of the water.

"This easing of restrictions will only be in place this weekend and will be available only to affected areas - Stirling North and the east of the gulf."