

Thursday, 6 September, 2007

\$4.7M VIRGINIA PIPELINE EXTENSION BOOSTS RECYCLING CAPACITY

The State Government is committing more than \$2.5 million to extend the Virginia Pipeline Scheme, cementing Adelaide's position as Australia's leading capital city in recycling water.

The extension will provide an extra three billion litres a year of high quality treated wastewater through a 20-kilometre pipeline network to horticulturists and market gardeners at Angle Vale.

The project will:

- Contribute to increasing Adelaide's use of recycled water.
- Reduce discharge of harmful nutrients into the Gulf St Vincent.
- Reduce demand pressure on the region's over-allocated groundwater resources.
- Contribute to reducing River Murray extractions.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the South Australian Government has advised the Commonwealth that its financial commitment is in place and the project can now go ahead.

"The total project cost is \$4.7 million and the Commonwealth has committed to providing \$2.035 million to the project, under the National Water Initiative.

"Virginia was the first and largest recycled water scheme of its type in Australia and is still one of the largest in the Southern Hemisphere.

"Already, the existing Virginia Pipeline Scheme currently distributes about 15 billion litres per year of treated wastewater from the Bolivar treatment plants to irrigators in the Virginia area

"Construction of the Angle Vale extension to the scheme means 35 percent of treated wastewater at the plant will be reused. It is expected to be complete by September next year, in time for the 2008-09 irrigation season."

Minister Maywald says Adelaide is already a leader in recycling water, currently reusing about 20 percent of water treated in wastewater plants compared with the national average of 9pc.

"With other reuse initiatives from metropolitan wastewater treatment plants, we will be capable of recycling nearly 45 percent of Adelaide's wastewater," she said.

"Through projects at our plants at Christies Beach, Glenelg, Aldinga and Bolivar, we will be freeing up stressed groundwater resources and reducing the flow of nutrients into the gulf by half which are extremely beneficial environmental outcomes."

Adelaide – Australia’s leading capital city in recycling water

Adelaide currently recycles about 21 percent of the 90,000 million litres that goes through our wastewater treatment plants. This is the highest of any capital city in Australia. With reuse projects underway will increase our total recycling capacity to nearly 45 percent.

Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The \$4.7m project extension of the Virginia Pipeline Scheme to Angle Vale will deliver another three billion litres of recycled water to be reused on market gardens.
- The State Government will contribute more than \$2.5 million to the project and the Commonwealth \$2.035m. It will lift the plant’s total reuse to 35 percent.

Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The \$60 million Glenelg project will provide extra treatment facilities and a 30-kilometre pipeline network from the plant to the Adelaide Parklands to enable 4000 million litres of treated water to be recycled.
- More than 60 sites in Adelaide CBD have been identified for potential development and further provision to reuse water for environmental flows in the River Torrens.
- The State Government has committed \$30 million to the project. Reuse from plant will increase to 55 percent over the next 5-10 years.

Christies Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant

- The project will enable an extra 4.4 billion litres of water to be reused from the plant, lifting reuse to 65 percent, with the potential in future for this to increase to 100pc.

Aldinga Wastewater Treatment Plant

- All treated water from this plant is reused.

Other State Government support for reuse schemes includes:

- **Port Augusta.** The \$1 million Port Augusta West Sewer Mining Project, operated by the Port Augusta Council, recycles 180 million litres of wastewater a year for irrigation of community parks and gardens. The State Government provided \$300,000.
- **Whyalla.** The Whyalla Council and SA Water will partner in a project to reuse 600 million litres of treated wastewater to irrigate council parks and garden and a golf course. The State Government has contributed \$14 million.
- **Victor Harbor.** About 115 million litres per year of treated wastewater from the Victor Harbor plant has been committed to be used to irrigate the golf course and a private vineyard. SA Water will treat the water at a cost of \$200,000 per year.
- **Berri Barmera.** Berri Barmera Wastewater Reuse Project is a partnership between the Berri Barmera Council and United Utilities Australia. The project involves treating 600 million litres a year of wastewater from council septic tank effluent disposal schemes and a local winery. The State Government contributed \$800,000.
- **Loxton Waikerie.** The Loxton Waikerie Council will coordinate a project to reuse water for the local golf course. The State Government will contribute \$500,000.