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DRILLING BARGE BEGINS WORK OFF PORT STANVAC

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says geotechnical marine investigations that will form part of the overall environmental assessment for the Adelaide Desalination Plant have begun off Port Stanvac.

“This is another big step forward in the fast-tracking of this water security project,” Minister Maywald says.

“A barge recently assembled in Port Adelaide and towed to a site off Port Stanvac at the weekend is being used as a specialised drilling platform.”

The three-legged barge attaches to the seabed to provide a stable platform to undertake the drilling.

Appropriate lighting and signs have been installed on the barge to ensure maritime safety at all times.

“The drilling rig on the barge will enable boreholes to be drilled into the sea bed into the underlying bed rock,” Minister Maywald says.

“The barge will be moved around to allow up to six boreholes to be drilled during the next month in the location of the proposed intake and outfall pipelines of the desalination plant.”

Minister Maywald says these investigations will provide important information on geotechnical conditions for the design of the intake and outfall conduits from the desalination plant.

The Adelaide Desalination Plant project is subject to the highest level of environmental scrutiny available in South Australia, with an environmental impact statement due to be published soon to inform further public consultation, Minister Maywald says.

“The State Government is committed to ensuring the design, construction and ongoing operation of the plant meet high environmental standards,” she says.