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MEDIA RELEASE

INTEREST SOUGHT FOR WHISPERING WALL DEVELOPMENT

Following a recent upgrade to the Whispering Wall Barossa Reservoir site, SA Water is now seeking Registrations of Interest for the possible development and management of a hospitality venue on site.

SA Water Head of Regional Operations Rob Dowling said it was envisaged the site could include a kiosk or café/restaurant, picnic areas and some upgrades to public amenities to help cater for the estimated 250,000 people who visit the site each year.

“Currently the site includes parking, a picnic area, public amenities, a circa 1900s cottage and a display of historic water supply infrastructure and equipment,” Mr Dowling said.

“The uniqueness of the reservoir made it a popular tourist destination and SA Water was excited about the possibility of an external group revamping the site.

“Redevelopment would make the site more appealing to tourists and it would also be a good opportunity to showcase the beauty of the Barossa Valley and the reservoir.

SA Water recently completed minor works at the site, which included:

- The installation of new fencing
- Resealing the entrance road and minor kerbing
- Creating disabled parking spaces
- General cleanup of vegetation
- Painting
- Upgrading and extending concrete paths

The Whispering Wall is well known for its acoustic properties, where sounds at one end of the dam can be heard clearly at the other end.

“The concrete arch dam was the first of its type in South Australia and one of the first in the world,” Mr Dowling said.

“It has also been included in the State Heritage Register because of its significant status in the history of engineering in the State.”

The ROI opens today and closes on Tuesday, 23 March 2009.