

Sunday, October 18, 2009

DESALINATION PLANT SITE OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Premier Mike Rann and Minister for Water Security, Karlene Maywald today helped kick off **National Water Week** with a free community day at the construction site of Adelaide's new \$1.8 billion desalination plant at Port Stanvac.

Mr Rann says the desalination plant is being built on time, and on budget, and is due to be producing water by the end of next year.

“This plant will, by 2012, be capable of producing 50 per cent of the metropolitan Adelaide’s water supply.

“It’s a huge plant that will give us water security for the future in the event of more frequently-occurring droughts.

“Desalinated water is by far the best means of supplementing Adelaide’s water supplies.

“It takes pressure off the River Murray and is not dependent on whether or not we get rain.

“While we think capturing stormwater road run-off has merit in some parts of the metropolitan area – it relies on rainfall and it’s far more expensive to capture and process for re-use than desalinated water.

“This fantastic new desalination plant is our insurance policy for Adelaide’s future water supplies,” Mr Rann said.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says everyone can be part of a whole range of activities on offer this week.

“Today’s community event includes the official opening of the plant’s temporary Visitor’s Centre. The site, on Chrysler Road at Lonsdale, will be open today from 11am through until 3pm.

“There will be plenty of free fun activities for families as well as information on the desalination process and our new plant. Minister for the Southern Suburbs John Hill and I will be attending to speak with community members and have a look at how construction of the plant is coming along.

“There are up to 600 workers on site during the week – so this weekend provides a good opportunity to see inside what is a very exciting water infrastructure project for Adelaide.

“Also for National Water Week, the Government’s Water for Good team will be under the canopy in Rundle Mall from tomorrow through to Wednesday encouraging people to take ‘The 4-minute Challenge’.

“The team will be giving away 4-minute shower timers and free personal water savings plans to suggest ways South Australians can save water in their home, community, school and industry.

“People can also exchange their existing showerheads for a water efficient one as part of the ‘Swap and Save’ Showerhead Exchange Program. But be sure to get in early so to not miss out.

National Water Week runs from October 18 to 24 and is designed to help communities protect and conserve our most precious resource – water.

Minister Maywald says National Water Week is an important Australia-wide initiative that raises water awareness in all States.

“The major theme surrounding this year’s National Water Week is diversifying water supplies, which is at the core of our *Water for Good* plan. The government has projects in four key areas – desalination, wastewater recycling and stormwater harvesting, efficient water use and improved management of our river catchments,” she said.

For more details about Water for Good, terms and conditions for exchanging your showerhead, or information about other National Water Week activities in SA visit www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au