

25 February 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

DESAL PROJECT SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

An Independent Verifier has been appointed to the \$1.347 billion Adelaide Desalination Project to verify the project is designed and built to project specifications and meets stringent environmental performance criteria.

Following an open-call tender process, APP Corporation has been selected as the Independent Verifier. APP Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Transfield Services and has experience in providing similar services for large infrastructure projects in Australia.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham said the Independent Verifier would help provide peace of mind that the Government's environmental, commercial, technical and social objectives for the project were being met.

"This is a complex project and a significant investment in our State's water future so we are taking every step to ensure it is delivered properly," Mr Ringham said.

"APP has acted in a similar role for several of Australia's leading infrastructure projects including Brisbane's \$4.3 billion Airport Link project and wind farm projects across the country. APP has also been involved with a number of other desalination projects in Australia.

"In its role as Independent Verifier, APP will verify the Contractor and SA Water meet their obligations in respect of the design, construction and commissioning of the desalination plant.

"A key task will be the verification that the durability of the works is robust so that the plant can meet long-term water security requirements.

"With a project of this scale, it is critical we have high levels of contractual compliance – from the development of the design documentation, to the testing of the systems.

"We require this plant to be designed and built to a very high standard and the Independent Verifier will help us see that this occurs."