

Friday, 31 August, 2007

### **EYRE PENINSULA WATER SECURITY GROUP FORMS**

The security of Eyre Peninsula's future water supply will be high on the agenda for a new group established to assist in the development of a new water plan for the region.

The Eyre Peninsula Water Security Reference Group has been established as a committee of the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board and will include representation from all 11 local councils, the NRM Board, Eyre Peninsula Regional Development Board, SA Water, Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and the South Australian Government's Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald said it was important for water decision makers to have local input and expertise on water issues for Eyre Peninsula.

"When I held the water summit in March, local councils and interest groups made it clear they were keen to be well informed on the development of the Long Term Plan for the peninsula," Minister Maywald said.

"They also gave us some suggestions for engaging local communities and we're looking forward to working with them to develop these further.

"With involvement from local leaders through to some of the State's water management experts, this group will have a roundtable of experience and knowledge which will help shape the future of an important region."

EPNRM Board Chair Brian Foster said the first meeting of the group took place during August.

"The reference group will assist with the review of the Eyre Peninsula Long Term Plan and ensure that local issues relating to water security are brought to the table," Mr Foster said.

"We believe this initiative will benefit all parties involved in the management of this important resource and ensure we deliver a long term plan that will secure Eyre Peninsula's water supply for the future."

Local communities are being invited to attend information sessions to find out more about the water supply system and to have input into identifying future infrastructure options. The sessions are scheduled to begin in September.

"Invitations for these sessions have been sent to all Eyre Peninsula property owners this week and will be more widely advertised next week," Minister Maywald said.

Further details of session time and locations will be advised following the receipt of registrations from the community. The sessions will also serve as an opportunity for residents to sign up for consultation

sessions to start late this year on the Long Term Plan.

The Long Term Plan consultation process began in June, when SA Water visited all Eyre Peninsula councils to understand key issues specific to their districts - including future development and growth projections and potential industry growth.