

Monday, 22 September 2008

## FIRST DESAL WATER IN 2010 – 12 MONTHS EARLY

Premier Mike Rann and Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald today announced the three short-listed bidders to build Adelaide's new \$1.1 billion desalination plant, which they say can be delivered 12 months ahead of the original schedule.

Mr Rann says Cabinet today approved the short-listed three consortia in the expressions of interest process to design, build, operate and maintain the desalination plant at Port Stanvac.

"When tender documents were released, we asked bidders to consider if they could deliver the plant earlier than the initial advised target date of December 2011."

The three short-listed companies are:

- **Addwater** – a consortia of Veolia Water and John Holland
- **Water First** – a consortia of companies including Degremont, Thiess and Thiess Services
- **Adelaide Aqua** – a consortia of companies including Acciona Agua, United Utilities, McConnell Dowell and Abigroup Contractors

"I am delighted that all three of the consortia have looked at the logistics of building a desalination plant of the size and capacity that we wanted, and say they have found ways to deliver the project 12 months earlier – by December 2010," Mr Rann said.

"Under this revised timeline, the plant would operate at a lower capacity initially, with water delivery gradually increasing to 150 million litres a day by June 2011.

"The plant will have capability for future expansion by up to 300 million litres per day."

"It will provide Adelaide with one-quarter of its annual water use and is a climate-independent source, providing us with the insurance we need against future climate variability. It will be powered using sustainable energy sources.

"The South Australian Government is committed to a massive investment in water projects – the largest infrastructure investment ever in this State.

"Desalination is a crucial part of South Australia's four ways to water security, including managing demand for water, increasing recycling and stormwater harvesting, and better management of our waterways and catchments.

"Water security for South Australia will be achieved through a diverse range of projects and technologies. There is no one magic silver bullet for water security."

Minister Maywald says these short-listed companies will develop detailed technical designs and management plans for the plant, as well as contribute to environmental investigations, approvals, and the development of the Environmental Impact Statement.

“We expect to be able to award the contract to the successful consortia for the plant in March 2009.”

Meanwhile, SA Water has also short-listed two respondents for the transfer pipelines to be built between Port Stanvac and the Happy Valley water treatment plant:

- Boulderstone Hornibrook
- Built Environs, McConnell Dowell (in association with ARUP).

“All of the companies short-listed for the plant and pipeline have extensive experience in similar projects and have clearly demonstrated their capabilities to deliver world-class water infrastructure for our State,” Minister Maywald said.