

Tuesday, 17 November 2009

SECURE WATER SUPPLIES FOR EYRE PENINSULA

SA Water customers on Eyre Peninsula west of Lock will this week begin receiving a mix of groundwater and River Murray water due to a reduction in allocations from Southern Groundwater basins.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the State Government has a commitment to the water security of all South Australians, not just those living in metropolitan Adelaide.

“That is why SA Water will this week begin to supplement existing water supplies to Eyre Peninsula communities including Ceduna and Streaky Bay with River Murray water.

A reduction in allocations of groundwater from southern Eyre Peninsula means that SA Water will provide approximately 20% River Murray water, or 600 megalitres a year to top up supplies to customers on the State’s west coast.

The water is being delivered via the Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline, which was built two years ago.

No new water is being taken as the 600 ML has been sourced from SA Water’s existing River Murray licences, which in recent years have been supplemented by purchases from existing users.

This represents less than 0.3% of SA Water’s total River Murray water licences for the State.

“In addition to maximizing the use of this existing pipeline, we have this year fast-tracked investigations into a desalination plant for the Eyre Peninsula,” Minister Maywald says.

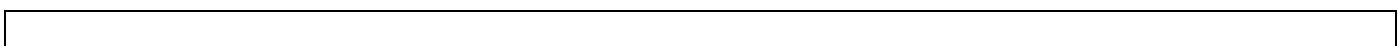
“This Government is doing the responsible thing. We are ensuring that the people west of Lock have a secure source of water in the short- to medium-term and we are also planning ahead for their future needs.”

In early 2009, the Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill, acting on advice provided by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, reduced SA Water’s allocations from the Southern Basins Area by 5.25%.

“In response to this reduction SA Water identified ways to meet the shortfall and ensure water supply to customers,” SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham says.

“SA Water has additional capacity in the existing Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline and this is being used to supplement supply to customers.

“In addition to maximising the capacity of the pipeline there are other water security measures in place to ensure supply to the region.



“In line with recommendations made in SA Water’s Long Term Plan, investigations into a seawater desalination plant have been fast tracked with potential sites to be identified by the end of the year.

“Level three enhanced water restrictions were also introduced on July 1 to manage the demand on the groundwater resources.”

