

Friday, February 16, 2007

FILTRATION PLANTS ACCELERATED TO ADDRESS WATER QUALITY

Water Security Minister Karlene Maywald says construction work to accelerate the State Government's \$50 million Country Water Quality Improvement Program will begin in mid-2007.

"The final phase of the program was initially set for completion in 2010. Now we are expecting to see this \$50 million program complete by 2008," Minister Maywald said.

"By accelerating this project, those country towns supplied with unfiltered River Murray water will have better quality water two years earlier than initially expected."

This project will be complemented by the State Government's \$5 million plan to lower key pumping stations below Lock one at Blanchetown.

"Lowering pumps will enable water to be accessed for longer as river levels drop. But if low flows continue the risk of water quality problems will increase," Minister Maywald said.

"The unprecedented drought and concerns about increased algal blooms in the River Murray has prompted the Government to fast-track the project.

"We are anticipating an increase in algal blooms in the river as the drought continues so we want to ensure the water supply of communities in the Riverland and Murraylands is protected."

The program will ensure treated and filtered water is supplied to 17 communities including Blanchetown, Cadell, Callington, Kanmantoo, Glossop, Monash, Jervois, Kingston, Monarto, Moorook, Mypolonga, Neeta/Cowirra, Palmer, Pompoota, Swan Reach, Tungkillo and Wall Flat.

"SA Water has been working with local stakeholders, including councils and landholders, to work through delivery options for the project so work is under way," she said.

"SA Water is currently negotiating with contractors to work on the project, and will announce the successful tenders by May this year."