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MEDIA RELEASE

EYRE WATER PLAN DELIVERS ON SCALE REDUCTION TRIAL

SA Water will undertake a water quality program trial aimed at reducing the build-up of scale in water pipes across Eyre Peninsula.

SA Water Head of Water, Quality and Environment Dr John Howard said about 120 SA Water customers surrounding Haslam would be part of the scale reduction trial which begins in August and is one of the key recommendations in our long term water security plan.

“The trial will provide SA Water with valuable information regarding the effectiveness of the additive Calgon in reducing the build up of scale, a naturally occurring feature of the region’s groundwater resource,” Dr Howard said.

“The anti-scalant is successfully used in small communities across Western Australia and we hope to get positive results from the trial on Eyre Peninsula. If this trial is successful, we will look at introducing the additive into water supply systems across the region.

“While this anti-scalant does not reduce water hardness, it is proven to reduce scaling and prevents the build up of calcium carbonate on the surface of pipes and in common household appliances.”

Calgon is a registered food additive and SA Water has worked collaboratively with SA Health to ensure the dosing remains in line with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Dr Howard says the trial will run for 12 months in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the product during the cooler and warmer months.

“This will provide us with every opportunity to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness over an extended period of time and give the community time to provide feedback on any changes they have noticed,” Dr Howard said.

SA Water will construct a temporary dosing station near Haslam which is designed to dose the community’s water supply with controlled and monitored amounts of the anti-scalant.

“SA Water customers involved in the trial won’t notice any change to the colour or taste of their supply,” Dr Howard said.

“We will keep the Haslam and surrounding community informed throughout the trial and they will have the opportunity to provide SA Water with feedback. A reference group including a cross-section of the district will also be created to assist in gathering community views.”

It’s anticipated SA Water will have preliminary results from the trial by November 2009.