

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

### **NEW GROUP TO IMMEDIATELY REVIEW EP WATER SUPPLY PLAN**

A new steering group of key stakeholders in supply and management of Eyre Peninsula water resources will be established, Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald announced today.

The EP Water Steering Committee will include representatives from SA Water, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board, the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and EP local governments.

It will operate collaboratively on current challenges and, in the short-term, will work on:

- Immediately review the Eyre Peninsula SA Water Master Plan and undertake the next stage of planning for the future. This will involve extensive consultation with local communities.
- A series of community forums throughout the region in May 2007 to inform communities on the current status of water supplies and seek input regarding current and future supply issues.
- Developing a series of 'frequently asked question' fact sheets to provide more information on water issues specific to local communities, in consultation with local councils, and the EP NRM Board.

Speaking after the Eyre Peninsula Water Summit, Minister Maywald said today's meeting was about understanding technical water supply issues and receiving key information on the challenges ahead.

"Today's meeting has provided a constructive way forward to work through the current issues the Eyre Peninsula is facing with water and develop a more integrated approach to planning for the future," she said.

"The new steering committee will play an integral role in setting direction of future solutions for EP.

"The Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline will come online in July 2007 which will immediately provide about 16 percent of Eyre Peninsula's current water demands.

"SA Water will then be able to reduce the draw on the Uley South Basin to below their allocation. This will enable SA Water to 'pay back' the permitted overdraw from the basin.

"Phase II of the pipeline project will add a further 10pc to EP's water supply and timing for commencement of this stage will coincide with demand triggers.

"All representatives at the meeting contributed on behalf of their communities and we now have a clear way forward to address future water resource planning for the EP region.

"The next step in this process is to work with the local community to ensure local expertise is provided on current challenges of Eyre Peninsula water supply and future solutions."