

News Release

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Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

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SOUTH AUSTRALIANS RECEIVE DESALINATED DRINKING WATER

South Australians will start receiving desalinated water over the coming days as water produced by the Adelaide Desalination Plant enters the state's network for the first time.

In marking National Water Week that begins tomorrow, Premier Mike Rann said small volumes of desalinated drinking water will be mixed with treated water from Happy Valley Reservoir in storage tanks before being pumped into the mains water pipelines.

"This is the first time residents and businesses who receive water from the Happy Valley water treatment plant will have drinking water containing desal water coming through their taps," he said.

"The Happy Valley Treatment Plant services customers across Adelaide from Happy Valley to Aldinga, the Adelaide Hills areas of Blackwood, Belair to Coromandel Valley, the western suburbs from Darlington to West Lakes and the eastern foothill areas from Clapham to Wattle Park.

"The amount of water that will initially enter the network will be between 5 and 10 million litres a day and will increase over the coming months as more capacity comes on line.

"Customers in the north of Adelaide will receive desalinated water from the North South Interconnection System Project scheduled for completion in late 2012."

Mr Rann said once the water passes through the reverse osmosis membranes at the desal plant, it is treated and then stored in the plant's two 25 megalitre treated water storages at Lonsdale.

"From the storages at Lonsdale, the water flows by gravity into the suction of the transfer pump station from where it is pumped through a 12 kilometre pipeline to Happy Valley," he said.

"At Happy Valley, desalinated water is then combined with water from the Happy Valley Water Treatment Plant before being distributed into the SA Water network."

Mr Rann said AdelaideAqua D&C Consortium has undertaken extensive testing and monitoring to ensure the desalinated drinking water meets the stringent specifications set by SA Health.

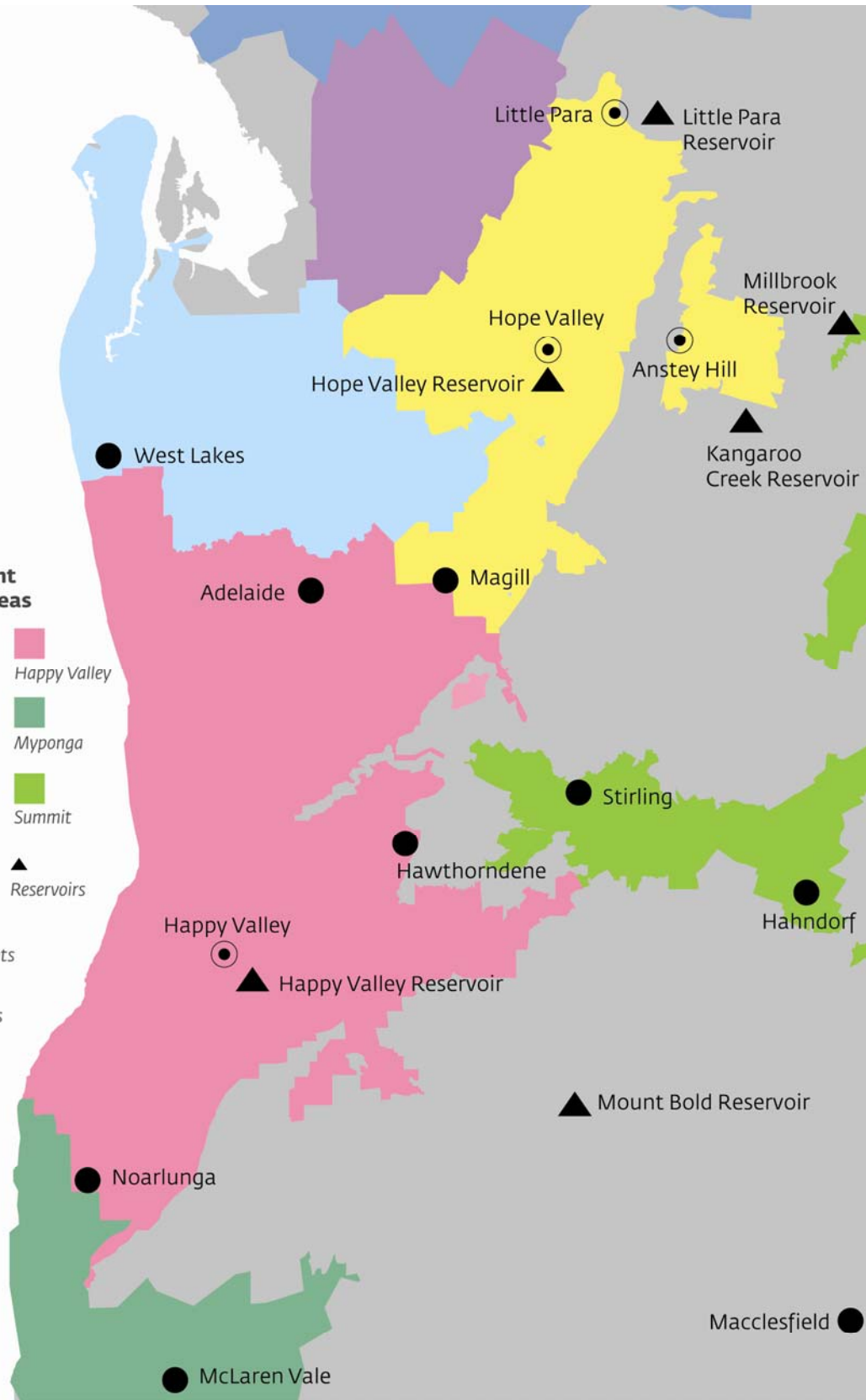
"SA Water has also undertaken further tests on the water just before it enters the Happy Valley treated water storage," he said.

"They are satisfied that this water also meets their stringent quality standards and can be safely supplied to customers. As the water is introduced into the network, customers should not notice a change to their water's taste or smell."

Mr Rann says this major milestone is a critical step in building the desalination plant that will ensure South Australians, have a secure water supply completely independent of climatic conditions for current and future generations.

Water Treatment Plant Supply Areas

- Barossa
- Little Para
- Anstey Hill
- Hope Valley
- Happy Valley
- Myponga
- Summit
- Reservoirs
- Water Treatment Plants
- Major Towns/Suburbs



Water Treatment Plants and Supply Areas

Please note: Water treatment plant supply areas are indicative only and may vary according to demand and operational requirements.