

10 March, 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

KANGAROO ISLAND LONG TERM WATER PLAN ON TRACK

The Long Term Plan for Kangaroo Island's water supply system is on track to be presented to the Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald by July 2009.

SA Water Outer Metro Service Delivery Manager Steve Rose says a series of options to help secure the Island's water supply over the next 25 years have been developed in consultation with some of the Island's key stakeholders and community members.

Options being considered for the plan include:

- Increasing the capacity of the Middle River Dam
- Increasing raw water storages
- Increasing filtered water storages
- Construction of a desalination plant

"These options are based on factors including consumption, population, demand and the sustainability of current resources," Mr Rose says.

"The aim is to secure drinking water for Kangaroo Island and ensure our system will have the capability to allow for growth in the future."

Stakeholders involved in the plan include Kangaroo Island Council, farmers, irrigators, tourism and environmental groups, progress associations, government agencies and individuals.

"This month SA Water is meeting with key stakeholders to identify the social and environmental factors the community believes should be considered in assessing the options.

"The meeting will allow us to make a decision on a preferred option to be included in the long term plan."

Stakeholders will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the plan prior to it being released.

Mr Rose also praised the water saving efforts of the Kangaroo Island community during the hot weather and thanked them for their help in restricting water use during the Middle River Water Treatment Plant's recent technical fault.

"Since 1 July 2008 to 28 February 2009 the community has saved almost 60 million litres of water when compared to the same period in 2006-07," Mr Rose says.

"I would like to congratulate the local community on this excellent reduction and encourage them to continue to be waterwise.

"I am also pleased by the response from communities in Parndana, Kingscote and the country lands users, as well as the Kangaroo Island Council in restricting their water use while we refilled our customer supply tanks to get the water supply system back to normal during a recent electrical fault in our infrastructure."