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WORK BEGINS FOR PORT STANVAC PILOT PLANT

The State Government and Exxon Mobil have signed a lease agreement to locate the \$10 million pilot desalination plant at Port Stanvac.

Premier Mike Rann says access to a 2500-square metre site north of the Mobil Port Stanvac wharf has been agreed.

“Setting up the pilot plant is the next step in fast-tracking construction of a 50-gigalitre plant, which will supply up to one-quarter of Adelaide’s annual water needs,” Mr Rann said.

“The pilot plant tests filtration and pre-treatment technology to determine the best processes for full-scale desalination at Port Stanvac to produce quality drinking water.

“Negotiations are continuing on permanent land requirements for the \$1.1 billion main plant, with more information expected by the end of the year.

“This is one of the largest infrastructure projects in which the State Government has invested and is part of a \$3 billion investment in securing Adelaide’s water supply.”

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says contractors have started assembly of the intake and outfall pipelines for the pilot plant.

“The plastic pipes will be connected together on Taperoo Beach and then floated offshore before being towed to Port Stanvac.

“The intake pipe, which is 200 millimetres in diameter and 1.6 kilometres long, and the outfall pipe, 110mm by 800 metres, will be weighted down on the seabed during the testing process.”

Minister Maywald says an extensive environmental baseline assessment is continuing for the main plant including:

- use of video transects, geotechnical surveys and sonar technology for seabed topography mapping and marine habitat identification;
- monitoring water quality and sampling seabed sediment;
- hydrodynamic modelling of brine discharge to investigate and identify any potential issues with brine dispersal; and
- ecotoxicological testing to assess desalination plant discharge on marine environments.

“The project’s Independent Environmental Technical Review Panel will assess all of environmental testing processes to ensure they meet the highest standards.”