

Wednesday, 9 February 2011

### **ALLWATER CHOSEN AS PREFERRED BIDDER TO MANAGE ADELAIDE'S WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

Minister for Water Paul Caica today announced ALLWATER Consortium has been chosen as the preferred bidder to manage Adelaide's water and wastewater networks for the next 10 years.

Mr Caica said the State Government has approved the \$1.129 billion Operations and Maintenance Alliance contract to provide services to SA Water's metropolitan customers beginning on July 1 when the current contract with United Water ends.

"The new alliance model is designed to deliver the best value to the community through higher standards of customer service, efficiency improvements and greater levels of contract transparency," he said.

"The alliance will allow SA Water and ALLWATER to work closely together in a collaborative manner, sharing skills and expertise which will provide greater benefits and value to more than 1 million metropolitan residents.

"It also provides for a more flexible approach to water management as we move into economic regulation, the introduction of new water sources and greater interconnection of the water supply systems."

Mr Caica said ALLWATER is a consortia made up of international companies, with long and proven experience in the water sector, both in Australia and overseas.

"This experience will be invaluable and will allow South Australia to have access to global experience in the delivery of water services, innovation and performance," he said.

"Transition to the new arrangements will start almost immediately, with recruitment of staff a major focus.

"The majority of staff making up the new consortium is expected to be recruited from the current contractor's workforce.

"The State Government will work closely with the consortium and unions to assist the transition.

"While responsibility for the management and maintenance of Adelaide's water and wastewater networks and infrastructure lies with the new contractor, the State Government, though SA Water will continue to own all assets."

Mr Caica said under the new contract there will be one customer contact centre rather than the two separate calls centres for metropolitan customers.

“There will also be some minor adjustments to the boundary of the contract, taking into account future growth of the metropolitan area and the efficiency of operations,” he said.

“The key focus over the coming months will be to ensure a smooth transition between the existing contractor and ALLWATER.

“Alliance contracts such as this have been widely and successfully used in the water industry across Australia and I’m confident this will be mirrored in South Australia.”

### **About ALLWATER**

ALLWATER is a joint venture between Transfield Services, Suez Environnement and Degremont.

**Transfield Services** – Is an Australian based provider of operations, maintenance, asset management and project management, with over 50 years experience. It has water utility experience with maintenance contracts in South East Queensland, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

**Suez Environnement** – Is a Paris based global leader in environmental field for over 150 years. It has water utility experience mainly in management of public utility infrastructure in Europe and the USA.

**Degremont** – Is a Subsidiary of Suez, and has been designing, building and operating water and wastewater treatment plants for more than 70 years. It has Australian water industry experience with construction of the Perth and Melbourne desalination plants and the Prospect Water Treatment Plant in Sydney.