
Monday, August 4, 2008

TESTING BEGINS FOR PILOT DESAL PLANT

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald will switch on Adelaide's pilot desalination plant today as testing of desalination technology for the full-scale plant begins.

Minister Maywald says testing and commissioning of the \$10 million pilot plant at Port Stanvac can now start.

“Once this is complete, the pilot plant will begin monitoring seawater quality and collecting data on the performance of pre-treatment and filtration technologies required for the main 50-gigalitre plant,” she said.

“Stage one of the pilot plant testing will run for 6-12 months to assess the pre-treatment process in a range of climatic conditions. Stage 2 will involve up to 6 months of reverse osmosis membrane testing.

“This is the next step in fast-tracking the \$1.1 billion plant, which will supply up to one-quarter of Adelaide's annual water needs.

“SA Water has put out a worldwide call for contractors to build the full-scale plant and has received strong interest. The call for expressions of interest closes on August 14, and SA Water will then assess all proposals before selecting two consortia to move to the next stage of the procurement process.

“The 50GL plant is on track for the first water to be delivered in December 2011 however SA Water will be asking companies which have tendered through the current expressions of interest process whether construction of the plant can be further fast-tracked.

“The successful contractors will be required to incorporate design elements to ensure the plant can be expanded in the future, to deliver up to half of our city's annual supply, should it be required.”

Minister Maywald says expressions of interest are being called soon to construct the transfer pipeline from the main plant to the Happy Valley reservoir.