

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

CONTRACT APPROVED FOR DESALINATION TRANSFER PIPELINE

The State Government has today announced the successful tenderer to construct the transfer pipeline from the Adelaide Desalination Plant to the Happy Valley Water Treatment Plant.

The contractor selected to design and build the pipeline system is a joint venture between *McDonnell Dowell Constructors Pty Ltd* and *Built Environs Pty Ltd*. A contract will be signed this month.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says awarding the contract is an important step in fast-tracking the desalination plant, ensuring that essential detailed design and procurement can begin.

“Construction of the transfer pipeline will begin in mid-2009, with an aim to ensure the infrastructure is ready, tested and commissioned prior to first water delivery in December 2010,” she said.

“Desalinated water will be pumped through the pipeline to Happy Valley, where it will be combined with water from the treatment plant before entering the existing water supply network.

“SA Water adopted an Early Contractor Involvement process which has ensured critical environmental and community issues can be included within the contractors’ proposal.

“A stringent assessment criteria was set in place for selection of the contractor and included input from environmental, social, economic and technological experts associated with the project.

“The Government has fast-tracked this project to further secure Adelaide’s water supply into the future and the project team is continuing to work hard to ensure desalinated water can be delivered to Adelaide, for the first time, by late 2010.”

SA Water has identified a preferred corridor for the transfer pipeline between Port Stanvac and the Happy Valley Water Treatment Plant. The corridor has been chosen to minimise impacts, and the transfer pipeline will be:

- Buried, largely within road verges, and located a suitable distance from residential areas, shops, schools and other community facilities to minimise community impacts during construction.
- Avoiding residential streets and will not traverse privately-owned property.

The contractors will tunnel under major road and rail crossings and will also build a pipe-bridge across the Field River to avoid disruption to traffic and environmental impacts. A range of surveys, geotechnical, heritage and flora and fauna studies are underway to determine a more specific pipeline route.

Yesterday, the State Government requested Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified suppliers for provision of electricity, renewable energy, carbon permits and carbon offsets for the Adelaide Desalination Plant.