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MEDIA RELEASE

SA WATER PLANS TOD DISCHARGE

SA Water is planning to start releasing water from the Tod Reservoir later this month as part of its operations to improve water quality in the contingency supply.

SA Water Head of Regional Operations Rob Dowling says SA Water had recently gained a permit from the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board to discharge water from the reservoir into the Tod River, during times of significant flows this winter.

“Welcome rainfall across the Eyre region in recent weeks has resulted in good flows above 45 megalitres per day at the Tod Reservoir discharge point,” Mr Dowling says.

“It’s this consistent flow level we have required to start discharging from the Tod Reservoir and now we are informing key stakeholders of our plans to do so.

“We have been working with relevant Government agencies and the EPNRMB to develop a plan for discharge from the Tod this winter.

“The agreed plan will allow us to free up some capacity in the reservoir for natural intake from rainfall.

“The Tod Reservoir has not been used as a drinking water source since 2002 due to water quality issues, but remains a contingency water supply for the Eyre region.

“The discharge process is intended to improve the quality of this supply – part of our operational procedure for all back-up water sources.

“Our permit allows is to release water from the reservoir into the river when flows reach 45 megalitres per day at the discharge point. Once the discharge begins, water quality monitoring will occur upstream and downstream of the discharge point.

“Discharge will stop when flows drop below 45 megalitres per day.

“Properties downstream of the reservoir may notice increased flows in the Tod River, however we do not expect it to be significantly higher than an average winter flow.

“While the discharge of the Tod Reservoir aims to improve the water quality, we do not expect salinity levels to reach the required national drinking water guideline levels by which we operate and there are no plans to reinstate the Tod Reservoir as a drinking water source.”

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