

May 31, 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL VISITS KICK OFF EYRE LONG TERM WATER PLANNING

SA Water will start targeted consultation sessions with Eyre Peninsula Councils in June to identify growth and development priorities and develop long term plans to deliver sustainable water infrastructure for the region.

Chief Executive Anne Howe said understanding council district development plans was an important first step in helping shape water plans and the initial consultation would take about four weeks.

“At the same time, we will be working with councils to develop a more comprehensive engagement plan to capture the views and wishes of their communities,” Ms Howe said.

Meetings and workshops with residents and community groups will be held from August through to November.

“Hearing directly from members of the various Eyre communities will be invaluable for long-term water planning for the region,” Ms Howe said.

Work is now under way on SA Water’s new Long Term Plan for Eyre.

“The summit, held in March, was a first step and we’re looking forward to working with the communities across Eyre as we work towards a 25-year plan for the region,” Ms Howe said.

“We want to look at a whole range of options to manage supplies into the future. We also want to understand how people feel about the current Eyre Peninsula water restrictions and what we can do to manage potential increases in water demand, particularly from the mining industry.

“Exciting initiatives are under way on Eyre and we want to make sure we can get the best results for the future prosperity of the region.”

In March this year Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald brought together a number of people from across Eyre Peninsula to help address the future of the region’s water resources.

This Water Summit gave councils, the Eyre Regional Development Board, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and SA Water the chance to share facts and air issues relating to water supply.