

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

KI LONG-TERM WATER SECURITY PLAN ONE STEP CLOSER

The State Government this week presented preliminary results of long-term water security planning for Kangaroo Island to local community groups.

Kangaroo Island's long-term plan will secure water supplies for the next 25 years, ensuring there is sufficient capacity to enable future growth and development.

This week's round of stakeholder discussions focused on meeting demand during drought years, building on previous consultation for population projections, economic development, social needs and environmental issues.

Central to the long-term strategy is 250 megalitres of new water storage to be built near Kingscote in two stages, with the first stage expected to cost about \$10 million.

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says building a new water storage has shown to be the most feasible of the five water security options considered for KI.

"The new storage facility will provide Kangaroo Island with a secure water source into the future, allowing for growth and additional supplies during drought conditions," she said.

"The facility will include two 125-megalitre storages, with the second to be constructed as demand for water on KI increases.

"Once complete, the new storage will receive water from Middle River Reservoir, allowing additional water to be stored for the island's drinking supply.

"It is anticipated construction of the first new storage will be completed during 2012, subject to relevant approvals.

"Other options investigated included upgrading Middle River Reservoir to 1000 ML, a new raw water storage, a seawater desalination plant to supplement Middle River or a desalination plant to supply the whole island. The option was selected after considering social, environmental and financial criteria.

"The input received from KI's key stakeholders and community members during consultation for the long-term plan has been invaluable to select a preferred option and I thank them for their assistance so far," Minister Maywald said.

Following this week's meetings, a draft long-term plan report will be prepared by SA Water.