

Frequently asked questions

Will there be enough water in the future?

Planning for the long term sustainability of Eyre Peninsula water resources is underway and this will take into account a range of factors including climate change, population growth and development. Currently, supplies are being managed within sustainable limits. A \$50 million Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline has recently been completed to give further security of supply. Local communities have worked hard to save water and, together, we will ensure sustainable supplies into the future.

Is there enough water for growth?

SA Water, EP Natural Resources Management Board and Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation are working in conjunction with the Eyre Regional Development Board, Local Government and the community on a Long Term Plan for Eyre Peninsula water security. As part of this, councils have been contacted to work with the Long Term Planning team to ensure a good understanding of growth and development projections. These will be taken into account to ensure we can support growth and development in the region.

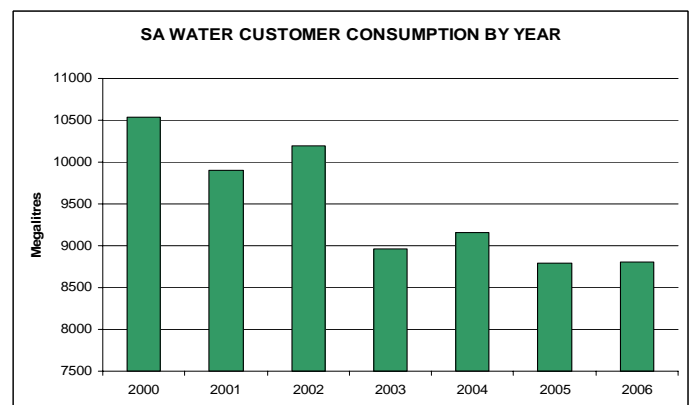
Are there any plans to boost the current supply of water from the southern basins?

The Eyre Peninsula Long Term Plan for Water will determine if a new resource is required and, if so, when and how much. The new Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline will also boost the supply and allow us to take some pressure off the basins.

Has the community been saving water?

Water consumption on Eyre Peninsula has decreased over a number of years. There are several reasons for this including the efforts of the community to save water, the efforts of local government to develop water reuse schemes, the high use of rainwater tanks and a decrease in stock numbers.

SA Water customers on Eyre Peninsula use about 9 gegalitres – or 9 billion litres – of water each year. Consumption has been declining, from about 10.5 gegalitres in 2000.



We hear a lot about mining activity. Where will the water come from?

At this stage there is a significant amount of speculation regarding mining on Eyre Peninsula and we need to see more detailed proposals to get a clear picture of projected water use. Like all major developments in the State, mining companies must tell us from where they intend to source water for their activities. SA Water's Long Term Plan will identify any pressure on water supply from growth in townships as a result in increased mining activity – for instance, if a town expects its population to grow significantly.

Will we always be on restrictions?

Across SA, either enhanced Level 3 water restrictions or Permanent Water Conservation Measures are in place. Permanent measures will always remain in place as these are a base level of restrictions. That means there will always be a requirement for the Eyre Peninsula community – as with all regional communities – to practice sensible and responsible efficiency measures. In the short term, Eyre Peninsula will remain on the restrictions introduced in December 2002.

Are we putting too much pressure on our groundwater basins?

Water Allocation Plans issued under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* ensure adequate monitoring and evaluation of the resources takes place including ongoing assessment of the quantity (eg availability) and quality (eg salinity) of the resource. License allocations are only provided as a percentage of the total amount of fresh water flowing into the basins. That means if rainfall decreases, allocations are also reduced so we do not increase pressure on the basins.

Why don't we build a desalination plant?

SA Water will explore options – including desalination – as part of its Long Term Plan. Desalination is a sound method of producing additional supplies but it should not be seen as the only solution and work must be undertaken to ensure environmental impacts are well managed.

How is water infrastructure replacement managed on Eyre Peninsula?

SA Water reviews infrastructure across the State, including the replacement of water assets on Eyre Peninsula. The aim is to make sure infrastructure is built and managed so customers receive reliable, cost effective services. Over the next five years, SA Water plans to invest \$7 million replacing assets on Eyre Peninsula.

Why don't we bring the Tod back on line?

The Tod Reservoir is part of SA Water's contingency plan for water supply to the region. However, the high salinity of the reservoir water means it is currently unable to be delivered for drinking water purposes. SA Water is working with the Environment Protection Authority and the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board to raise the water quality in Tod Reservoir.

Why has the Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline been built?

The new \$50 million Iron Knob to Kimba pipeline will initially provide about 15% of Eyre Peninsula's water needs and will allow for future development and growth. The pipeline is not intended to replace water efficiency initiatives or provide for all of the region's water needs. However, it gives us greater flexibility to manage supply across the region and let the groundwater basins recharge and recover.

Will this put extra pressure on the Murray?

The new water source accounts for less than 1% of SA Water's draw from the River Murray. No extra water is being extracted from the River Murray to supply Eyre Peninsula as the water has been purchased from licences already operating.

What other information is available?

If you would like any more information contact:

SA Water - www.sawater.com.au or phone 1300 650 950.

Eyre Peninsula NRM Board - www.epnrm.sa.gov.au or phone 8682 5655.

Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation - www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au or phone 8463 680.