

Thursday, 26 February 2009

GREEN LIGHT FOR ADELAIDE DESALINATION PLANT

Minister for Urban Development and Planning Paul Holloway said today the Adelaide Desalination Plant at Port Stanvac has been approved after an exhaustive assessment using the major development process.

Mr Holloway says the \$1.374 billion project, approved by the State Governor, was subjected to the most transparent and robust assessment process available under South Australian development laws.

“The major development assessment concludes that appropriate environmental objectives and performance criteria can be imposed on the plant to protect the marine environment and water quality in the Gulf St Vincent,” Mr Holloway says.

“This conclusion has been supported by an independent panel of marine experts established to ensure the environmental impact study process are achieved.

“The assessment recommended conditions imposed on the final design and location of the diffuser should ensure the plant at Port Stanvac achieves the environmental objectives and performance criteria set out in the EIS.

“The 11 conditions attached to the Development Approval require management and monitoring plans to be put in place to ensure the successful development and operation of the plant.

“Further licensing requirements under the Environment Protection Act will also be required.”

Mr Holloway says 39 public submissions were received in response to the EIS, including 26 from members of the public, 11 from government agencies and two from local government.

Members of the public were also able to air their concerns at a public meeting at Hallett Cove held during a six-week consultation period, he says.

SA Water’s development approval addresses the more than 100 separate environmental, social and economic issues identified by the independent Development Assessment Commission.

Today’s development approval also takes into account SA Water’s responses to the various issues raised throughout the extensive public consultation process.