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MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTH EAST LEAKAGE DETECTION PROGRAM BEGINS

More than 500 kilometres of water mains across the State's South East are being investigated for leaks under a \$100,000 SA Water leakage detection program.

SA Water South East Service Delivery Manager Janina Morrison says Mount Gambier is the first regional centre in the State to undergo this level of leakage detection.

"Over the next few months about 250 kilometres of mains across Mount Gambier will be checked for leaks. This will be followed by a further 250km in other South East towns including Robe, Beachport, Nangwarry, Millicent, Kingston, Mount Burr, Naracoorte and Penola," Ms Morrison says.

"The program is one of the most effective ways to ensure any leakage in our local water network can be found and repaired before they progress to the point of burst mains.

"We have an extensive mains network across the South East and the majority of our pipes are underground, making it difficult to find leaks until they are significant enough to reach the surface and become more obvious.

"A team of contractors will be using hand-held listening devices to detect noises at water meters and fittings. This technology allows us to detect and assess any areas of leakage which can then be investigated and repaired by our local crews.

"We're always trying to find new ways to reduce water lost to leakage - this is why we have introduced this program.

"We also have an ongoing maintenance program which assesses the age and condition of pipelines across the State to further assist with identifying required repairs, upgrades and replacements."

Ms Morrison says if the South East program proves successful, SA Water will consider expanding the project to other regional areas across the State.

In July 2008 a similar program began to check leaks across Adelaide's entire water distribution network under a three year, \$8 million program.

For more information on water loss management in South Australia visit www.sawater.com.au.