
Friday, 25 February 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

WORK COMPLETED AT DESALINATION PILOT PLANT

The Adelaide Desalination Project's pilot plant has been decommissioned after completing more than two years of operational testing at Port Stanvac.

SA Water Chief Executive John Ringham said since first commissioned in late 2008, the pilot plant had helped complete investigations into desalination technology, process, water quality and the environment.

"All of the studies we have done and data collected from the pilot plant will be used to help operate the 100 gegalitre Adelaide Desalination Plant when it begins producing drinking water later this year," Mr Ringham said.

"During the pilot plant's operation, SA Water and AdelaideAqua D&C Consortium were able to study performance of pre-treatment and filtration technology required for the full-scale plant.

"It also gave us the opportunity to monitor local seawater quality, during different climatic conditions, right next door to where the permanent intake and outfall infrastructure is being constructed.

"Some of the environmental studies and sampling undertaken at the pilot plant has given us a better understanding of techniques we can use to manage outfall streams required to meet the strict environmental standards to operate the full-scale plant.

Mr Ringham said a key benefit of the pilot plant had been the opportunity it provided for SA Water and AdelaideAqua process engineers to gain operational experience across a full range of seasonal seawater quality conditions.

"Having both SA Water and AdelaideAqua teams involved in the pilot plant's operation will not only add to our knowledge base and development as a desalination plant operator, but also allow our project teams to collaborate on lessons learned when it comes to the operation of the full-scale plant.

"We have also been able to involve five of our graduates in the pilot plant work, helping to set up some of our young and talented future water professionals with relevant skills and knowledge in the desalination field."

The \$1.83 billion Adelaide Desalination Project remains on track for completion of the 100GL capacity plant by the end of December 2012.