

Wednesday, 13 May 2009

ADELAIDE TO DOUBLE SIZE OF ITS DESALINATION PLANT

The State Government will invest \$228 million to double the capacity of the Adelaide desalination plant from 50 gegalitres up to 100 gegalitres, matching the commitment of \$228 million made in last night's Federal Budget.

Premier Mike Rann says the expanded plant, to cost about **\$1.8 billion**, will reduce our reliance on the River Murray and gives us certainty that we will never run out of water in times of severe long-term drought.

“The plant will now provide Adelaide with up to half of its annual water use and will be powered using sustainable energy sources

“The estimated cost of the expansion is an extra \$450 million for process plant and marine works and power supply and associated infrastructure upgrades.

“Increasing the desalination plant's capacity means that during dry times, when the River Murray is under most stress, we will be able to source the majority of our drinking water from the sea.”

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says the first water from the desalination plant is still expected in December 2010, and will be up to full 50 GL capacity by mid 2011.

“The increase to 100 GL production, which will require extra reverse osmosis modules being added to the current plant under construction at Port Stanvac – will be in full production by the end of 2012.

“However, the plant will progressively increase production until full capacity is reached.

“The inlet and outfall pipes for the plant, and the connecting pipeline into the distribution network, were already being built with capacity for a 100 GL plant.

“Desalination is one of the State Government's four ways to water certainty, which also includes stormwater harvesting and recycling water, more efficient water use and better management of our catchments,” Minister Maywald said.