
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

SWAN REACH UPGRADE COMPLETES \$10M MURRAY PUMP PROJECT

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says an upgrade to the Swan Reach Pump Station is complete, securing water supplies to residents living in the Barossa Valley and parts of Yorke Peninsula.

“Early this year SA Water commissioned a temporary low-lift pump station at the Swan Reach Water Treatment Plant to ensure the secure supply of water to nearly 32,000 customers from the Swan Reach to Stockwell Pipeline during times of low River Murray levels,” Minister Maywald said.

“Ongoing drought conditions and low inflows to the Murray-Darling Basin have resulted in a major fall in the River Murray pool level downstream of Blanchetown and the longer term forecast is for further declines if the drought continues.

“In order to address this, SA Water has undertaken work on all four of its major pump stations along the River Murray to ensure that the infrastructure can remain operational during these extreme circumstances.”

“A decline in the water level impacts on our ability to pump from the river to major pipelines.

“This project concludes a \$10.2 million capital works project on our four major pump stations along the River Murray.

“During 2008 SA Water also completed upgrades to secure water supplies from the Mannum-Adelaide, Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga and Tailem Bend-Keith pipelines, which help deliver water all over South Australia.

“The Swan Reach raw water pump station, which began construction in September last year, is one of four major pump stations located on the River Murray below Lock 1 and supplies water via the Swan Reach to Paskeville pipeline.

“This temporary pump station will extract River water via two suction pipelines and deliver the water into the existing raw water pumping station to simulate a higher pool level.”

Minor works continue on site until early February to complete fencing and security activities.