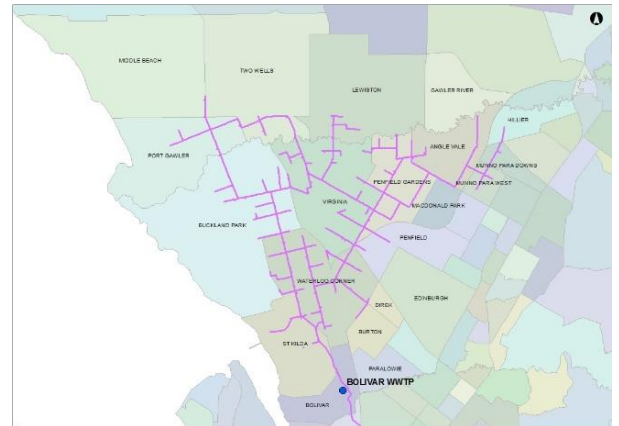


Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme News Sheet No 1 - March 2016

The Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) represents an opportunity to provide additional recycled water from the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant for irrigation use in the Northern Adelaide Plains. The amount of recycled water associated with the NAIS opportunity is in the order of 20 Gigalitres (GL) each year.

It is expected that the additional recycled water will support significant economic and jobs growth in the region. In addition, the expansion of the recycled water will help to facilitate the growth of South Australia's premium food and wine industry, aligning with one of seven strategic priorities of the Government of South Australia.



As a comparison, the existing Virginia Pipeline Scheme (pictured right) currently delivers around 17 GL of recycled water from the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant for irrigation use by around 350 irrigators in the Northern Adelaide Plains.

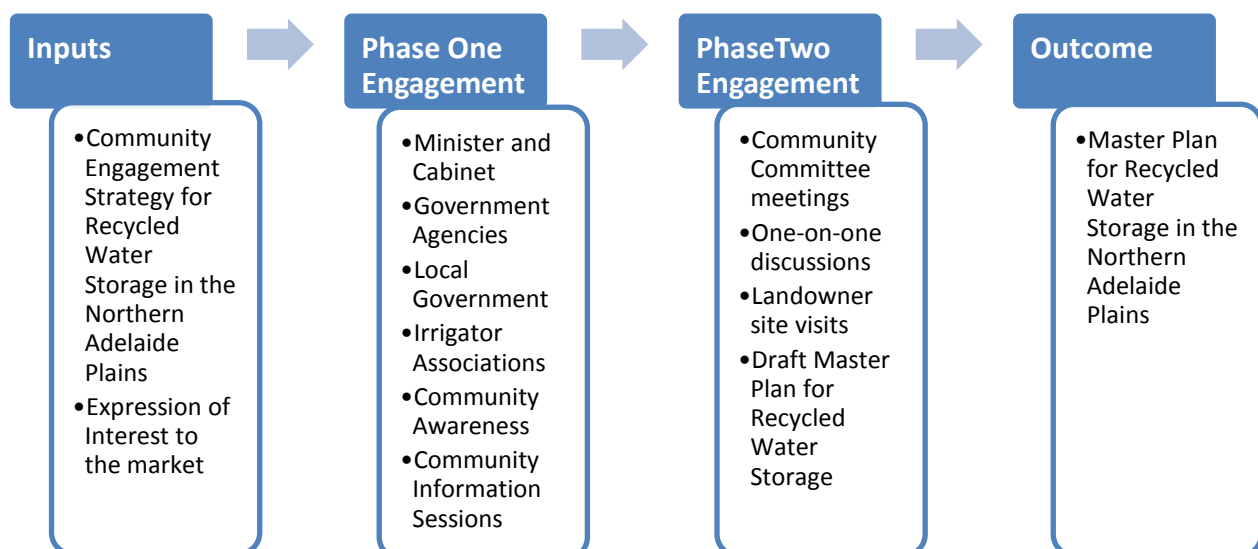
This News Sheet provides an overview of NAIS, results of Phase One Stakeholder Engagement, and outlines the next steps.

Recycled Water Storage

Of the 20 GL, around 12 GL is produced during wetter (Winter) months. For this recycled water to be made available for irrigation, it needs to be stored. SA Water is considering two broad storage options:

- Above-ground storage in one or more holding ponds
- Below-ground storage to the local aquifer (T2 Aquifer) through a process called Managed Aquifer Recovery

Stakeholder Engagement Process



Phase One Engagement Outcomes

SA Water has now completed Phase One engagement which included a series of stakeholder briefings and eight community information sessions. A total of 18 issues and opportunities have been identified and discussed with the community. They can be grouped into four themes being:

- Community health and wellbeing
- Growing a local economy
- A sustainable future
- Confidence in Government processes and collaboration



Five issues that the majority of participants at the community information sessions viewed as important to consider in the planning of the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme and associated storage options included the following:

- Ensuring that native groundwater sources are protected for future use, including domestic supplies, if the aquifer is used for the storage of recycled water
- That the rising water table and surface flooding issues currently being experienced are not worsened by using the aquifer for the storage of recycled water
- That the current price of recycled water is not substantially impacted by the NAIS
- That crop production and yield is not negatively impacted by the quality of recycled water, i.e. high levels of Sodium Chloride
- That the aquifer is protected from any long-term impacts that may be caused by the storage of recycled water

Participants also identified potential criteria (success factors) that they would want to see in place for above-ground or below-ground storage solutions, these generally related to:

- Water quality Project
- Approvals, licenses and monitoring
- Location

All points raised during Phase One engagement have been provided to the SA Water NAIS Team and will form key discussion points for Phase Two of engagement.

Phase Two Stakeholder Engagement

Phase Two of the Stakeholder Engagement strategy is now underway. A Community Committee for Recycled Water Storage has been established and includes representation from industry groups, horticultural irrigators, community and Local Government. The purpose of the Committee is to work with SA Water to develop a Master Plan for Recycled Water Storage in the Northern Adelaide Plains to support the delivery of NAIS. In doing so, the Committee will examine the various issues and opportunities raised through the first phase of engagement.

Private Enterprise Engagement

Proposals have been sought from private enterprise to make use of the recycled water, including provision of infrastructure to transport and distribute. As part of the approach, prospective proponents have been made aware that SA Water are currently engaging with community in regards to recycled water storage and that it is expected that the outcomes will inform final proposals. Proposals are currently being evaluated.

More Information

To read the full NAIS Phase One Stakeholder Engagement Report and access meeting papers of the Community Committee for Recycled Water Storage visit the SA Water website.