

Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve

Solar panel installation

Our Happy Valley Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant is an important part of South Australia's water supply system, with over 40 per cent of Adelaide currently supplied with water from Happy Valley. The plant currently consumes 8,500 to 10,000 Megawatt hours (MWH) of electricity per annum.

We want to ensure continued reliable services and low and stable prices for our customers. To do this, we are aiming to significantly reduce our energy costs by 2020. Planning has commenced to install approximately 9 MW of solar panels, about 30,000 panels, in the northern portion of the Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve, along Main South Road and Black Road (area outlined in red below).



We carried out extensive surveys of the Happy Valley Reservoir Reserve to locate the best area for the solar panels. The preservation of native vegetation and the suitability of the land to avoid steep slopes were important factors in selecting the land. The chosen area is both relatively flat and free of native vegetation.

Pine plantation removal

ForestrySA will remove the pine plantation located along Main South and Black Roads.

The Aleppo pines were established as a ForestrySA production forest, on SA Water land, and are several years overdue for harvesting. There is evidence of weakness in the trees, with some falling over.

Design of solar panel installation

Installing the solar panels at the site enables us to use all the generated energy where it is needed, before any excess is exported to the grid. This means we can become self-sufficient.

We understand the visual landscape is important to the community. We are working with the local community to ensure the solar panel design and landscaping minimises visual impact.

Landscaping will include an earth mound along Black Road and South Road. This will be planted with native low growing vegetation to a height that will provide a screen between the road and solar installation.

The panels will be set back from the boundary by approximately 20 meters to allow adequate space for this landscaping.

To meet Australian guidelines, solar panels are designed to withstand all weather conditions, including strong winds and hail. Solar panels are dark-coloured, covered with anti-reflective coating and designed to absorb light.

Our Zero Cost Energy Future

It is important we keep prices as low and stable as possible and we are committed to ensuring our services represent excellence value for our customers.

Energy is one of our biggest costs. It took more than 340 gigawatt (GW) hours, at a cost of \$62 million, to power the treatment and transportation of drinking water and sewage in 2017-18.

Our Zero Cost Energy Future initiative will see us install approximately 152 megawatts of solar generation and 35 megawatt hours of energy storage across 70 of our sites across South Australia by 2020.

By increasing our renewable energy generation and storage capacity, we will significantly reduce our electricity costs within the next three years to improve the cost of services for our customers.

Your feedback welcomed

You can be kept informed by registering your details on watertalks.sawater.com.au. Once registered, you can take our short survey and participate in our online discussion forum.

For more information or any questions, please contact Alyssa Freeman, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Adviser, on:

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