

Welcome to our latest update on the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) project newsletter. SA Water is keeping the Northern Adelaide Plains community updated on progress with NAIS, which is being developed under the Primary Industries & Regions South Australia (PIRSA) led Northern Adelaide Plains Agribusiness Initiative.

NAIS Selection Process

In August 2015, SA Water released an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the market asking for proposals to transport and make use of an additional 20 gigalitres (GL) per annum of recycled water in a way that would generate the greatest economic benefit and jobs growth for South Australia.

In September 2016, SA Water announced a preferred proponent to progress to the next stage of the selection process for NAIS. The preferred proponent is a multinational consortium consisting of:

South Australian Companies – Tonkin Consulting and Leed Engineering and Construction, and; Spanish Companies – Valoriza Agua and New Growing System.

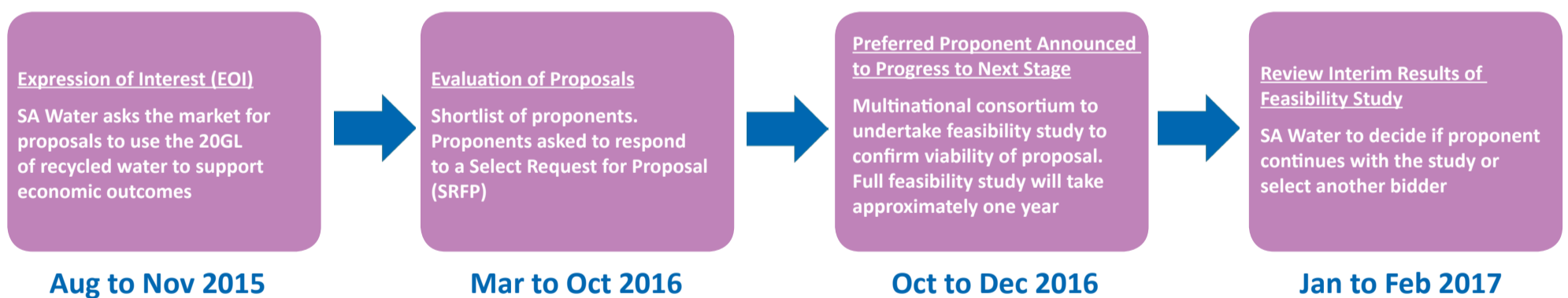
The consortium is now undertaking a feasibility study to confirm the viability of their proposal to grow crops in high-tech greenhouses for export. It is expected that the interim results of the feasibility study for the NAIS project will be available in early 2017. The outcomes of the feasibility study will be crucial in determining the viability of the proposal and whether this proponent can progress in the selection process. In parallel to the NAIS selection process, SA Water sought information on broad acre demand to support Federal Government funding for the NAIS project. Further updates about the progress of the NAIS project will be provided on our webpage and in our next newsletter.

The NAIS EOI selection process is a staged approval process as outlined below:



Wastewater is passed through the above clarifiers during the secondary treatment process at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant

NAIS Selection Process



What is NAIS?

Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) is a public/private partnership concept developed under the PIRSA led Northern Adelaide Plains Agribusiness Initiative.

SA Water released an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the market seeking innovative proposals to utilise 20 GL per annum of recycled water from the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant that can create the greatest economic benefit for South Australia.

Proponents needed to show:

- *Economic development (export potential, direct employment opportunities and technological innovation and improvements)*
- *Engineering and construction solutions for storage and delivery of treated water*
- *Management of the proposed scheme*

Is there additional recycled water available?

SA Water recognises that the demand for recycled water from the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is a key issue for the Northern Adelaide Plains (NAP) community and understands that there are a large number of existing growers in the region interested in additional recycled water for primary production.

Currently, 19.5 GL per annum of recycled water is contracted through the Virginia Pipeline Scheme (VPS), which distributes the water to approximately 400 horticultural growers, and a further 20 GL per annum of recycled water has been allocated to the NAIS project.

In addition to these volumes, more water can be made available to the NAP community from the existing Dissolved Air Floatation Filtration (DAFF) plant at Bolivar. There is around 5 GL per annum of additional water that is currently produced during winter and could be released for use. In order to make this additional winter water available, storage (above and/or below-ground) and upgrades to the network will be necessary.

As these projects continue to evolve information and further discussion on water availability will be communicated over the next year.



Additional winter water can be made available to the NAP community from the existing Dissolved Air Floatation Filtration (DAFF) plant at Bolivar.

Future operation of the Virginia Pipeline Scheme

The VPS is currently owned and operated by TRILITY, who are contracted to SA Water until 1 January 2018. SA Water is working on a strategy for the future management and operation of the current VPS infrastructure to meet the future demand of the horticultural industry.

SA Water will be talking with current VPS customers over the coming months to inform the decisions being made about the future operation of the scheme.

Finalisation of SA Water Guidelines for Recycled Water Storage in the NAP

Earlier in the NAIS project's development, the community and the NAIS consultative committee helped develop the SA Water Guidelines for Recycled Water Storage in the Northern Adelaide Plains (Guidelines). The Guidelines outline criteria to help identify acceptable locations for above and below-ground storage and additional criteria, over and above the regulatory requirements, to further address community concerns. The finalised Guidelines will be available on the SA Water website www.sawater.com.au in January 2017.

Find out more about the NAIS Project

We will continue to keep the community informed as the NAIS project progresses and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the project and other related recycled water issues.

If you would like to arrange a meeting please email us on nais@sawater.com.au

For more information on the NAIS project visit:

<http://www.sawater.com.au/current-projects/northern-adelaide-irrigation-scheme>

Other information about NAIS

http://pir.sa.gov.au/major_programs/northern_adelaide_plains_agribusiness_initiative

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