

Northern Water Project – Impact Assessed Development

About the development

The Office of Northern Water Delivery has submitted a development application for construction of the Northern Water Project.

The Northern Water Project is a water supply infrastructure project which seeks to provide a new, sustainable source of water to the eastern Eyre Peninsula, Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North of South Australia.

The project will support current and future growth in the region, and may reduce reliance on the River Murray, Great Artesian Basin and local groundwater sources.

The proposed development comprises:

- A 260 megalitres per day (ML/day) seawater desalination plant on eastern Eyre Peninsula at Cape Hardy.
- More than 600km of water delivery pipeline extending north from the desalination plant to Olympic Dam passing Whyalla, Port Augusta, Woomera and Roxby Downs.
- A series of pump stations and water storage tanks.
- Electricity transmission infrastructure, to provide power to the desalination plant and pump stations.
- Communication towers and equipment to provide radio link connectivity and data communication between the desalination plant and pump stations.

Potential consumers of the water supply include hydrogen and mining projects, SA Water, Department of Defence, the manufacturing sector and the pastoral, agricultural and horticulture sectors.

Development assessment process

This application has been categorised as an Impact Assessed Development, the most rigorous level of development assessment in South Australia. As part of the process, the Office of Northern Water Delivery will be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the social, environmental and economic impacts of the development.

The State Planning Commission has endorsed a set of Assessment Requirements, which will guide the preparation of the EIS. The Assessment Requirements were prepared in consultation with the Commonwealth Government (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water), relevant State Government agencies, local Councils, and the Applicant.

The Assessment Requirements are now released for information.

How to access the Assessment Requirements

The Assessment Requirements can be accessed on the PlanSA website:

[Northern Water Project | PlanSA](#).

Matters to be considered in the assessment

The Commission has identified the following key issues which must be assessed in the EIS:

- Effects on marine flora and fauna, ecological processes, and marine based industry including recreational and commercial fisheries and aquaculture.
- Effects on terrestrial flora and fauna.
- Effects on Matters of National Environmental Significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* including listed threatened species and communities, listed migratory species, and Commonwealth lands.
- Effects on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Economic and social effects for local and regional communities, and the State.
- Effects of providing an alternative, climate independent water resources for community, industry and mining use.

Next Steps

The Assessment Requirements are released for information only. The Office of Northern Water will now prepare the EIS.

Feedback on the Northern Water project will be invited when the EIS is released for public consultation.

Translation services

If you require translation services to help you understand this information, please contact:

- Australian Government Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS): Phone 13 14 50
- South Australian Government Interpreting and Translating Centre (ICT): 1800 280 203.