



Planning, constructing and investing in communities throughout WA to help us ensure water for all, forever.

Southern Seawater Desalination Project – Preferred Alliance Selected

Following six months of intensive preliminary design work by the two short-listed Spanish consortia and three months of intensive evaluation, the Water Corporation has announced Southern SeaWater Alliance (SSWA) as the preferred alliance partner to build and operate the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant.

With the preferred alliance partner now selected, we're able to provide further specific project information addressing the major community concerns.

PROJECT FACTS

Beach closure	Access to the beach will be maintained for the project except for the occasions when the tunnelling machine is directly beneath the beach adjacent to the plant site. These beach restrictions will only be for periods of a few weeks at a time, not for the entire construction period of 18 months (as previously explained as the worst case scenario). The restrictions will be necessary to ensure the public's safety.
Construction Camp	A workers construction camp is not planned for the project. Where possible, regional sub-contractors will be sought for the project and any additional workers will be housed throughout regional towns in close proximity including Bunbury.
Environmental Impacts	<p>Minimised through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the recently purchased disused limestone quarry to house the majority of the infrastructure • Set back of the pump station 450 metres from the beach and behind the dunes • The use of the tunnelling method for the marine pipelines from the pump station to the ocean to minimise the disturbance of the coastal dune system • Tunnelling reduces the likelihood of blasting thereby further reducing environmental impacts • Replanting more vegetation than will be removed
Noise	<p>Noise levels must meet regulatory requirements as set by the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, and significant monitoring and management plans will be implemented to ensure these requirements are met.</p> <p>Noise modelling of the facility has been undertaken to show the requirements can be met. The Water Corporation have also committed to a post-construction noise audit to ensure the noise requirements are being achieved.</p> <p>Noisier parts of the facility such as the main building will be enclosed and 'sound-proofing' materials will be used. The construction of the man-made vegetated berm will also reduce noise impacts.</p>
Visual Impact	<p>The majority of the plant will be located in a disused limestone quarry approximately 1200 – 1400 metres back from the beach behind the dune system. The seawater pump station will be 450 metres behind the dune system.</p> <p>The plant design requires the construction of an approx. 8 metre high man-made vegetated berm to provide a visual screen to the east and south of the plant site.</p>

*** This announcement of the preferred alliance partner does not pre-empt environmental approval for the project and the alliance contract will not be awarded until all approvals are received.*

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http://www.watercorporation.com.au/D/desalination_plant2.cfm