

MAY 2023

Stakeholder engagement summary report



Government of
South Australia



The Northern Water Supply project is one of a number of projects being considered for the Upper Spencer Gulf as part of the State Government's plan to decarbonise local industry, provide for future jobs and economic development, and position the region as a global leader in the net-zero economy.

The NWS project recently completed a Business Case which assessed the potential for a new and sustainable water supply for the Far North of SA and Upper Spencer Gulf. The project aims to sustainably support regional communities and industries now and into the future.

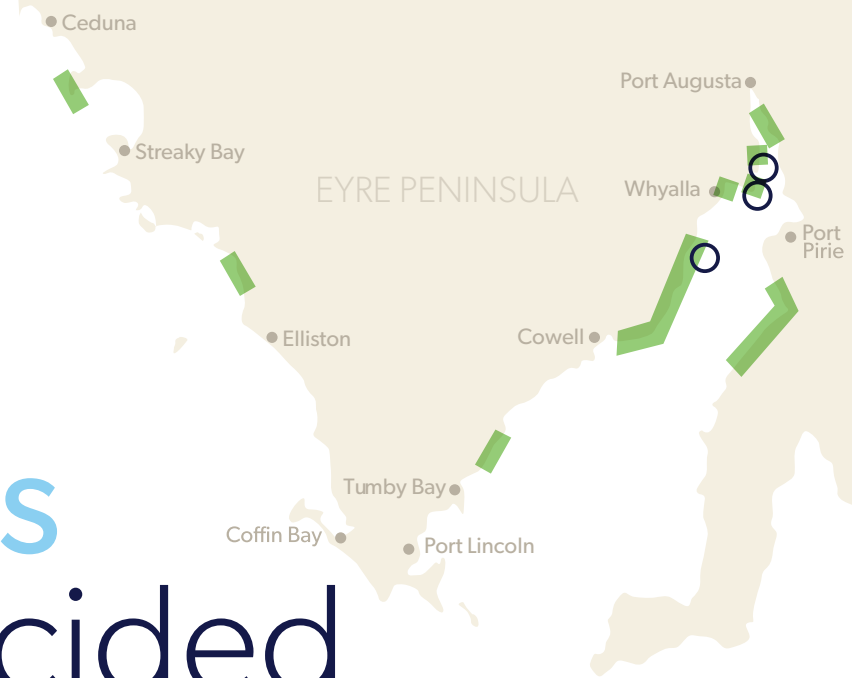
Significant engagement with stakeholders informed the Business Case. This is a summary of the engagement approach, what we heard and how stakeholder feedback has been incorporated.

“

**THIS IS A ONE-OFF OPPORTUNITY TO
GET THIS RIGHT. WE HAVE A DUTY OF
CARE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE
RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

”

What was being decided



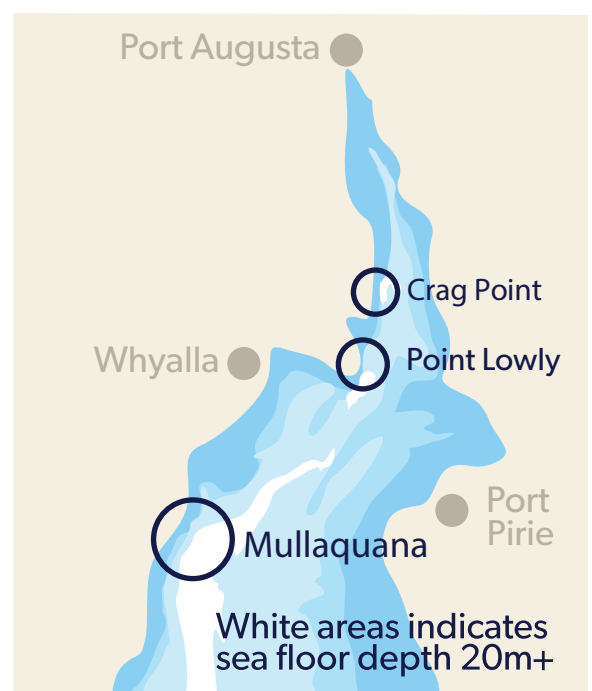
The Business Case evaluated the environmental, social and economic benefits and impacts of building a seawater desalination plant in the region, along with a 450 km pipeline to transport the desalinated water to communities and industries across the region, including the emerging hydrogen industry.

Part of the business case process involved looking at where might be the most suitable site to conduct in-depth studies on the feasibility of building a desalination plant. Stakeholder input was a critical part of identifying issues, risks, opportunities and benefits that should be considered as part of the site assessment process and captured in the Business Case.

Ten sites for the desalination plant were initially considered across a wide region covering the Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula. Sites were then eliminated where they were found to be unfeasible due to environmental constraints or significant cost increase.

Following this process, three potentially feasible sites were identified

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| SITE 1 | Crag Point |
| SITE 2 | Point Lowly |
| SITE 3 | Mullaquana |



*Information and data on this figure is an artist impression and is not to be used as a detailed design.

How we engaged

Stakeholder engagement commenced in March 2022 with the announcement of the Business Case study and continued to the end of February 2023.

A targeted engagement approach was delivered to ensure key stakeholders were given significant opportunity to participate in the engagement process. A wider community engagement approach provided various ways for community members to give feedback on potential sites and the project.

KEY REPRESENTATIVES STAKEHOLDERS



METHOD

- Site analysis workshop
- Briefings and presentations
- Multi-criteria analysis
- Face-to-face meetings
- Stakeholder Reference Group
- Direct engagement



STAKEHOLDERS

- Landowners
- Commercial fisheries and aquaculture
- Broader industry
- Marine advocacy
- Environment/conservation groups
- Recreational fishers
- Traditional Owners
- Local councils
- State Government
- Federal Government



INFORMATION SHARED WITH NETWORKS

ACTIVE OUTREACH



METHOD

- Postcards
- Project briefings
- YourSAy
- Surveys
- Meetings
- Phone calls
- Emails



STAKEHOLDERS

- Shack owners
- Marine industry
- Affected residents, businesses and landowners

GENERAL COMMUNITY



METHOD

- Multi-criteria analysis survey
- Site selection survey
- NWS survey
- YourSAy
- Project telephone and email
- Stakeholders social media
- Posters
- Postcards
- Networks

POTENTIAL DELIVERY PARTNERS



METHOD

- Commercial negotiations
- Market sounding
- Project Participants Working Group

What we

“

**NEW WATER SOURCE
COULD PROVIDE WATER
AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR REGIONAL AND
REMOTE COMMUNITIES
TO BE GREENER AND
MORE LIVEABLE**

”

What we heard

SUMMARY

- Overall feedback was supportive of a new water supply, including the benefits and opportunities it could bring:
 - reducing or replacing the use of climate-vulnerable or non-renewable water sources such as the Great Artesian Basin system (which includes Mound Springs) and River Murray
 - providing a reliable, sustainable water source
 - providing water and opportunities for regional and remote communities to be greener and more liveable.
- A new water supply should not be at the expense of the health of the Upper Spencer Gulf and surrounding region.
- The potential impact on the marine environment as a result of brine disposal, the resulting impact on the fishing and tourism industries, and the habitat and ecology of the Upper Spencer Gulf were of paramount concern.
- Mullaquana was generally supported as a suitable site for further investigations because:
 - it was considered that potential marine impacts would be most likely to be able to be suitability managed here due to its location closer to the mouth of the Gulf and deep water to improve brine dispersal
 - there is a greater availability of land
 - there is a greater distance from existing shack settlements and accessible coastline.
- It was clear that stakeholders and the community consider the two northern-most sites of Crag Point and Point Lowly to be unacceptable for further investigation. This was largely due to their location in the top of the Gulf, where circulation and tidal movements were considered less likely to disperse outfall and social and recreational impacts would be greater. The impact of the physical development on these areas was also considered to be undesirable.
- Some respondents did not consider a desalination plant, or at least any return of brine to the Gulf, appropriate in any circumstances. While the number of people who communicated this perspective was relatively low, the level of commitment to this view was strong within that smaller group.
- Alternative potential desalination plant sites outside of, or lower in the Spencer Gulf and other water supplies to consider were suggested.

“

**THERE IS A NEED
FOR A NEW WATER
SUPPLY FOR THE
UPPER SPENCER GULF
AND FAR NORTH SA,
HOWEVER, ANY NEW
WATER SUPPLY
SHOULD NOT BE AT
THE EXPENSE OF
THE HEALTH OF THE
UPPER SPENCER GULF**

”

What we

MARINE IMPACTS



CONCERNS

- Potential impacts of the construction and operation of a desalination plant on the marine environment.
- Impacts of seawater intake and brine outfall and the importance of selecting a site that would minimise these impacts.
- Unique tidal features of Upper Spencer Gulf affecting brine outfall impacts.
- Potential impacts on cuttlefish.
- Marine environment of the Gulf was considered to already be in a poor condition and highly vulnerable to environmental changes.
- Further deterioration of Gulf health through cumulative and long-term impacts of industry, build-up of hypersaline water, and outfall from a desalination plant.
- Potential impact to the sensitive ecosystem of the Gulf including mangroves and seagrass which provide habitat and important marine nurseries, as well as a direct impact to sea-life particularly on eggs, juveniles, and breeding.
- Importance of fishing and aquaculture in the Gulf for commercial or recreational fishing operations and associated industries and communities who rely on this resource.
- The importance of considering all species and understanding of their migration paths and connections.
- Impacts of infrastructure on exclusion zones and fish movement.
- Using subsurface intake and the ability for a desalination plant to be optimised depending on timing or tides was seen as a potential way to minimise impacts.
- Amount of water to be drawn from the Gulf.
- Impact on shorebirds.
- Impact on sand drift.
- High expectations that marine investigations would be conducted early in the process, be subject to independent peer review and full public scrutiny, conducted openly and transparently, be rigorous and defensible, and be informed by scientific evidence.
- Other plans, studies and proposed projects in the area were highlighted.

94%

**OF RESPONDENTS
TO THE SITE SURVEY
CONSIDERED AVOIDING
OR MINIMISING IMPACTS
ON THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF
CHOOSING A SITE**

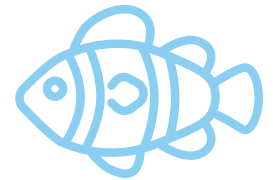
Project response

MARINE IMPACTS



MULLAQUANA WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE SITE WITH THE BEST POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF MARINE IMPACTS FROM A LARGE-SCALE DESALINATION PLANT.

- Marine impacts were considered as part of the site selection multi-criteria analysis.
- Site selection was considered by stakeholders as the first and most important measure for mitigating marine impacts from the project.
- The Project Team has been working closely with commercial fishing associations, environmental groups and recreation fishers to understand concerns and manage impacts.
- Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) scope will include studies of potential impacts on commercial and recreational marine species including cuttlefish.
- Significant resources are being invested to better understand the oceanographic characteristics of the Gulf and the implications for dispersion and flushing. This includes:
 - additional monitoring (multi-site and multi-depth) of current conditions
 - bathymetry surveys
 - improved modelling of the water flow within the Gulf.
- **Significant research will also be undertaken during the assessment phase to understand the potential distribution and impact of brine discharge to the Gulf.**
- Additional management options for discharge being considered include pre-mixing the saline water with seawater to reduce the salinity differential at the point of discharge.
- Ecotoxicology studies will be included as part of the marine investigations to be undertaken.
- Potential impacts will be modelled based on the maximum capacity of the desalination plant. This will include modelling potential intake and outfall impacts.
- Seabed surveys will be undertaken to help understand the potential impacts.
- Options for onshore treatment or use of brine have been explored with no economically or environmentally viable options currently identified.
- The physical layout of the desalination plant will be designed to allow for a future connection and off take for land-based use of the post-process brine should an option become available in the future.



- Exclusion zone area around the intake and outfall sites will be minimised to the intake and outfall points, and not the full pipe length.
- Adelaide University was engaged to undertake a literature review of all the academic research related to potential impacts of desalination plants in the Gulf. This has informed the scope for further studies on potential marine impacts.
- All studies of the marine environment will be independently peer reviewed and made publicly available.
- Adelaide University will coordinate and oversee independent peer review of all scientific studies undertaken for the project relating to the marine environment. This level of peer review is above and beyond the level of review required as part of the legislative approval process.

**AS PART OF SCOPING THE
PROJECT REQUIREMENTS
FOR MARINE STUDIES
INTO THE POTENTIAL
IMPACTS ON THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT, THE
PROJECT TEAM HAS
MET WITH A RANGE OF
EXPERTS IN MARINE
SCIENCE INCLUDING
STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE
MARINE INDUSTRY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTORS**

What we heard

LAND

83%

OF RESPONDENTS TO THE SITE SURVEY CONSIDERED AVOIDING OR MINIMISING IMPACTS ON THE LAND AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CHOOSING A SITE



- Environmental impacts to land should be avoided or otherwise minimised.
- Select a site and pipeline route that considers impacts on habitat, protected species, and surface water flows.
- Utilise existing infrastructure corridors, particularly roads or powerlines to reduce landscape impacts and disturbance.
- Studies and baseline data collection needs to be undertaken during the appropriate season.
- Co-location with other industry was seen to have both advantages and disadvantages.
- Shared resources and utilising land already industrialised was seen as a benefit, however this could also restrict future expansion access to coastal beaches in the local area.
- Concerns about potential impact on terrestrial species and birds.

Project response

LAND

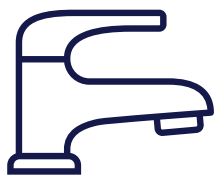


- Terrestrial environmental impacts were considered as part of the site selection MCA.
- Flora and fauna surveys will be undertaken to reduce the risk of construction to any vulnerable species.
- The project is proposing to underground the pipeline where feasible, which will mean revegetation of disturbed areas can be maximised.
- The project is seeking opportunities to undertake local environmental offset projects.
- Pipeline corridor has been designed to follow existing infrastructure corridors wherever practicable.
- Visual amenity of the proposed infrastructure will be considered in the environmental impact assessment process.
- Physical access to the coastline will not be impacted.



**THE PROJECT
IS SEEKING
OPPORTUNITIES TO
UNDERTAKE LOCAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFSET PROJECTS AND
FOR THE PROJECT TO
RESULT IN A NATURE
POSITIVE OUTCOME**





77%

**OF RESPONDENTS
TO THE SITE SURVEY
CONSIDERED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO OFFSET
CLIMATE-DEPENDENT
WATER SOURCES AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF
CHOOSING A SITE**

What we heard

OPPORTUNITIES

The importance of securing a new water supply was highly supported and considered necessary.

The importance of and the opportunity to reduce draw from the Great Artesian Basin and consequentially its mound springs was particularly highlighted due to their cultural and ecological value and concerns of environmental unsustainability.

OTHER POTENTIAL PROJECT BENEFITS IDENTIFIED AND SUPPORTED INCLUDED:

- providing a water supply to nearby communities and settlements
- opportunity for greening of the Whyalla community that could not be done with current water supplies
- seeking opportunities for utilisation of brine
- connection to pastoral properties
- more reliable water supply that facilitates sustainable growth
- improving liveability and unlocking tourism and industry opportunities that otherwise would not be available
- reduce reliance on the River Murray and Great Artesian Basin
- The Northern Water Supply project could defer the need for a desalination plant at Port Lincoln
- connectivity to Southern Middlebank Range Iron Duke processing plants
- potential development of horticulture and intensive agriculture
- new water supply is critical for mineral resource development.

CONCERNS:

- expansion of businesses and increased use of water should not be encouraged as it makes communities even more reliant on water and further increases need that is not sustainable
- actual potential for the project to support green hydrogen and the development of transition to a decarbonised economy
- 'green washing' to get approval for a project which ultimately would not achieve an environmental benefit.

Project response

OPPORTUNITIES

- The Project Team will continue to work with communities to identify and realise project benefits.
- Options for onshore treatment or use of brine have been explored with no suitable onshore options currently available.
- The physical layout of the desalination plant will be designed to allow for a future connection and off take for land-based use of the post-process brine should an option become available in the future.

What we heard

DECISION MAKING PROCESS



- Consider long-term and short-term outcomes in decision making.
- Short-term economic, stakeholder, political and mining considerations should not take precedence over long-term environmental and social considerations.
- Preserve the fishing industry and local amenity.
- Some indicated a low level of trust of other organisations, and in decision makers based on previous experiences.
- The project and decision-making process should be independent of identified water customers.
- Learn from past experiences and processes.
- A commitment to a transparent assessment process is desired.
- Concerns regarding the integrity of planning processes and a lack of accountability for decision makers and government.
- Concerns that the process seemed predetermined before consultation had been undertaken and did not respond to alternative scientific evidence.

Project response

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- Stakeholders were invited to participate in the MCA process as part of site selection.
- The project will be subject to a approval processes required under legislation.
- In addition to the legislative requirements the project is committed to open and transparent engagement with stakeholders.
- Independent peer review of all marine environmental impact studies will be undertaken.
- Project Team will continue to work with stakeholders in the identification and assessment of potential issues.
- The project will make all relevant environmental studies undertaken public.
- The project is committed to an open and transparent process.



**THE BUSINESS CASE
WILL CONSIDER
ENVIRONMENTAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
IMPACTS AND BENEFITS
IN ITS ASSESSMENT**

What we heard

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

AN ENGAGED, HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD COMMUNITY WAS CONSIDERED A MEASURE OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders is important.
- Accessibility and communication of data was considered essential to public understanding and scrutiny, particularly during any environmental impact assessment process.
- Support was expressed for the approach undertaken and for engagement with targeted stakeholders.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- The language of the engagement seems to be promoting the process and misleading.
- The general public do not care enough to consider the impacts.
- Difficulty accessing the YourSAy website.
- Lack of transparency and distribution about the consultation process

Project response

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Northern Water Supply project is committed to an open and transparent assessment process. This commitment is supported through:

- uploading all relevant marine and other environmental studies undertaken as part of the project
- sharing marine monitoring data captured in the Gulf as an open resource
- explaining the project rationale as an important part of the engagement process
- involving of stakeholders in the MCA process as part of selecting the study site
- regular updates on the project YourSAy webpage
- providing support to community members to access the YourSAy webpage.

In undertaking work on the project, the team has identified many opportunities afforded by the project as well as a range of issues which require further assessment. These have both been shared and comments invited.



**REGULAR
MEETINGS WITH
THE STAKEHOLDER
REFERENCE GROUP
TO PROVIDE
UPDATES, GAIN
INPUT AND
PROVIDE FEEDBACK
ON HOW INPUT
HAS INFORMED
THE PROJECT**

What we heard

ALTERNATIVES

SUGGESTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES TO THE NORTHERN WATER SUPPLY

- Use of recycled wastewater or recycled water from the region to replace or supplement desalination.
- Build a pipe from the Adelaide desalination plant.
- Further drawing on the River Murray at increased rates during flood periods like the current flood to feed an auxiliary supply to water needs.
- Build only a pump station in the Upper Spencer Gulf and pump saline water to be desalinated at in-situ desalination plants at Olympic Dam, Carrapateena and Prominent Hill.
- Need to consider other emerging technologies that do not produce a waste problem and are less energy intensive.

ALTERNATIVE PROJECT SERVICE AREA SCOPE

- Need for a state-wide strategic plan for water security and opportunities as opposed to individual solutions in isolation.
- The Northern Water Supply should include consideration for the provision of water to Port Lincoln and surrounds.

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

- West Coast of the Eyre Peninsula, Elliston, Ceduna
- Port Augusta to reduce the amount of pipeline required
- Cape Hardy or a location somewhere lower in the Gulf.



Project response

ALTERNATIVES

- The Northern Water Supply Business Case considers a new water source for the Upper Spencer Gulf and the Far North of South Australia.
- The Northern Water Supply project initially considered 68 different options for providing a water supply to the far north of South Australia. Options included new or expanded use of River Murray water, treated wastewater, integration with the Adelaide Desalination Plant and a range of other options. Pumping untreated seawater was also considered.
- Following the options analysis, it was found that a coastal seawater desalination plant was the best solution in terms of reliability to meet demand requirements, climate change resilience, environmental impact and cost.
- The business case considered 10 areas for potential desalination plants. These included Cape Hardy, and the West Coast of the Eyre Peninsula.
- Sites were excluded where there were environmental concerns due to water quality and the potential for the receiving environment to be able to tolerate discharge, or if the cost was significantly higher than alternative options to meet the required supply demands of the project scope.
- These studies found that the West Coast options are not feasible with a cost increase of more than \$2 billion greater than other potential sites.
- A joint concept study into water supply pipelines between the proposed Northern Water Supply desalination plant and Cape Hardy was announced in December 2022. This study is being undertaken as a standalone concept and is not part of the primary business case for the Northern Water Supply project.
- Supply to Cape Hardy is dependent on firm and material demand.

What we heard

ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE



79%

OF RESPONDENTS TO THE SITE SURVEY CONSIDERED AVOIDING OR MINIMISING IMPACTS ON HERITAGE (ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL) AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CHOOSING A SITE

- It is important that Aboriginal Cultural Heritage areas are protected.
- Areas with non-aboriginal heritage value should also be protected including natural and built heritage.
- The project presents an opportunity to add value to, or reinvest in heritage sites.

Project response



ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The project will seek to avoid impacts of both aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage.

The project will work directly with Traditional Owners to identify areas of cultural significance and measures to avoid or effectively manage impact on these areas. This will involve:

- Cultural Heritage surveys
- development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- other agreements to be made with the relevant Traditional Owner groups.

SOCIAL LICENCE' VS 'SOCIAL IMPACT'

Acceptable management of key issues raised in the engagement process will affect the level of 'social licence' the project has in the community

What we heard

AMENITY

71%

OF RESPONDENTS TO THE SITE SURVEY CONSIDERED AVOIDING OR MINIMISING IMPACTS ON AMENITY (VISUAL, NOISE, VIBRATION) AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CHOOSING A SITE



CONCERNS

- Impacts:
 - to landowners
 - to recreational use
 - of increased housing demand in an already tight rental market
 - to important recreational areas and activities.
- Cumulative impacts of existing and increasing infrastructure projects.
- Noise, vibration, light, and increase in traffic.
- Local amenity could be destroyed for benefit elsewhere.

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND LIVEABILITY OPPORTUNITIES

- Providing job opportunities to bring locals with appropriate skills back to the region.
- Providing a water supply to nearby communities and settlements.
- Improving liveability and unlocking tourism and industry opportunities that otherwise would not be available.
- Connection to pastoral properties.
- More reliable water supply that facilitates sustainable growth.
- Achieving community greening outcomes within and beyond Whyalla that could not be done on current water supplies.

Project response

AMENITY



- Visual amenity of the proposed infrastructure will be considered in the environmental impact assessment process.
- Visual impacts considered in site selection MCA.
- Impacts to be managed and assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

What we heard

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS



85%

OF RESPONDENTS TO THE SITE SURVEY CONSIDERED AVOIDING OR MINIMISING IMPACTS ON EXISTING INDUSTRIES IMPORTANT IN SELECTING A SITE.

- Existing economic activities and growth, including recreational and commercial fishing, pastoral, tourism and future industries should not be compromised by a desalination plant or further industrialisation.
- State and local governments seem to place more importance on particular industries and to economic development at the expense of other industries and of environmental assets.
- Minimising construction costs and maximising economic growth opportunities was considered an important aspect of choosing a site by only 29% of respondents of the site survey.
- Concern that local economic activities and associated industries would be compromised to benefit mining.
- Major companies that will benefit from a new water source should subsidise water for the communities they operate in.
- Desire for the project to be economically self-sufficient in the long term.

Project response

ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

- A review of potential impacts on existing industry will be incorporated as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment scope.
- Impact on existing industries was considered in the site selection MCA.
- A funding model is being developed to ensure users cover the cost of their water use.



**EXISTING ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES AND GROWTH
INCLUDING RECREATIONAL
AND COMMERCIAL FISHING,
PASTORAL, TOURISM AND
FUTURE INDUSTRIES SHOULD
NOT BE COMPROMISED BY
A DESALINATION PLANT OR
FURTHER INDUSTRIALISATION**

What we heard

SITE FEEDBACK

MULLAQUANA

WAS FELT TO HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL TO BE SUSTAINABLE AND WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED AS THE BEST SITE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Less constraints and avoided any interface with Defence activities.
- Proximity to Cowell, Port Lincoln and Whyalla would be a benefit and make it more accessible to potential customers and opportunities on the Eyre Peninsula.
- Further away from cuttlefish breeding sites and other important marine areas.
- Closer to open ocean, with wider deep water near enough offshore and significantly higher capacity to flush brine.
- Relatively high marine connectivity to the Point Lowly region exists during winter months.
- Being further away from Port Pirie and Whyalla would mean the intake water would be less polluted and less saline.
- Site would have less impact on:
 - future tourism, recreational, industrial, pastoral activities
 - natural and built heritage
 - flora and fauna types with less unique species to the area.

CONCERNS

- Marine impacts.
- Importance of the area to yellowfin whiting (*Sillago schomburgkii*) and key juvenile prawn sites.
- The potential increased cost for transport, distance from other infrastructure and further distance required for pipeline.

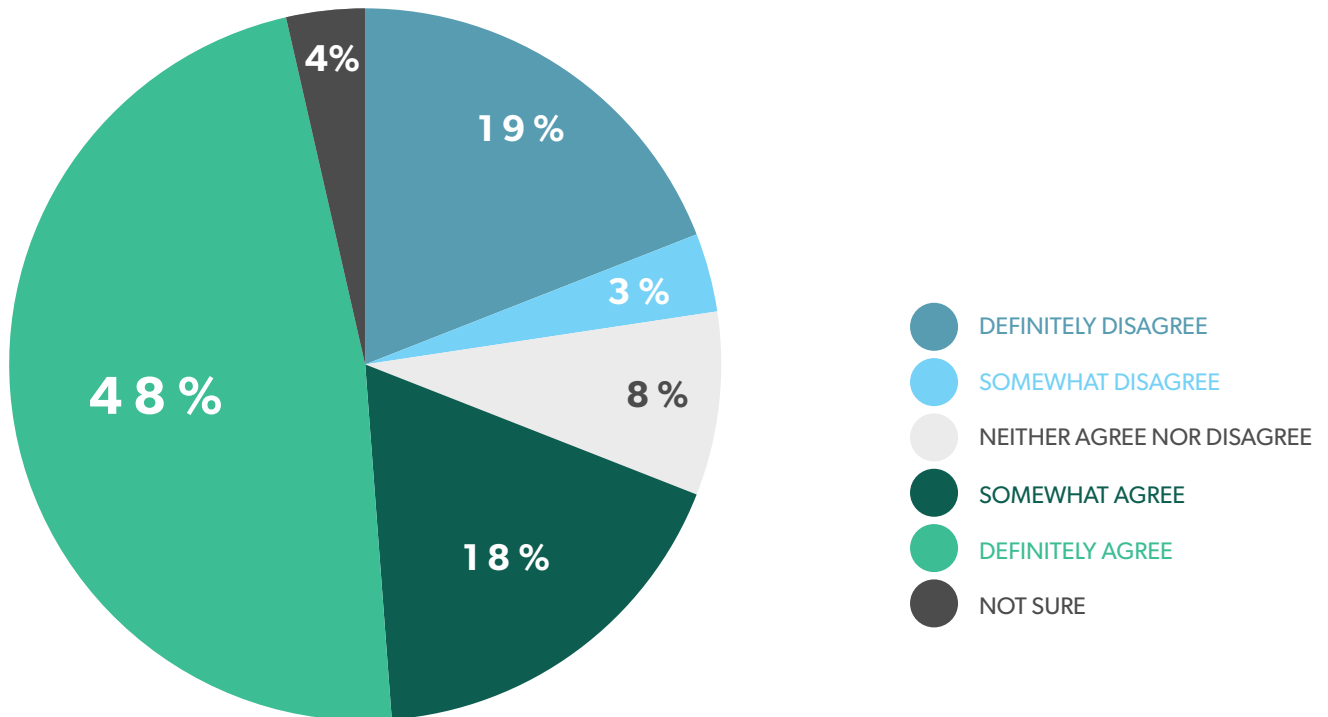


Project response

- Comments received from the community were included as part of the information used to inform the MCA site assessment process.
- Mullaquana was used as the site for the Business Case.

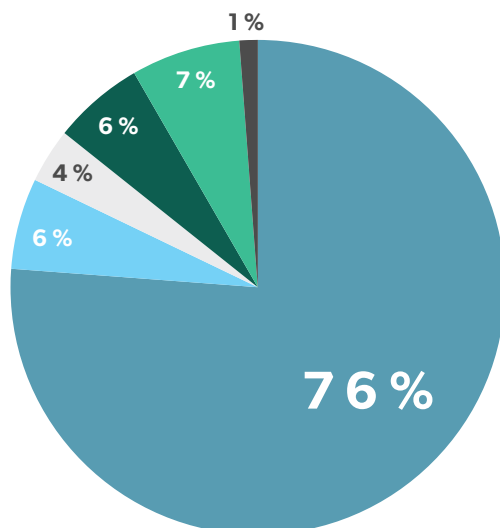
LEVEL OF AGREEMENT THAT SHORT-LISTED SITES ARE A SUITABLE STUDY SITE

MULLAQUANA

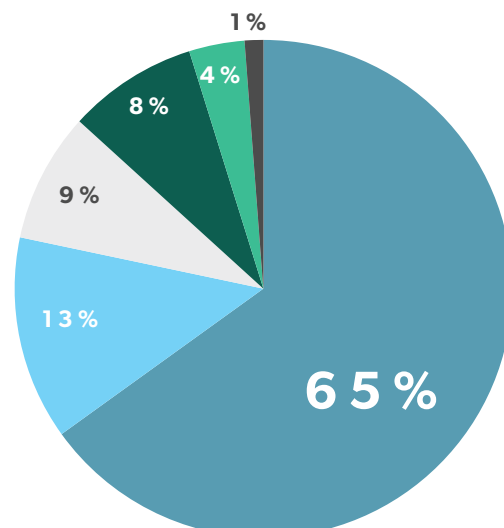


HIGH LEVELS OF COMMUNITY CONCERN TOWARDS POINT LOWLY AND CRAG POINT OPTIONS AS A STUDY SITE

POINT LOWLY



CRAG POINT



What we heard

SITE FEEDBACK

POINT LOWLY

POINT LOWLY WAS NOT GENERALLY SUPPORTED FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION AS A POTENTIAL SITE.

CONCERNS

- Lower capacity to manage the brine outfall due to already high salinity and lower circulation of water.
- Strong opposition still exists in the community from the previous consideration of the site for similar project proposals.
- Strong desire to protect the character and amenity of Point Lowly.
- The area is an important recreation area for the community for fishing, camping, swimming, picnics and day trips.
- Close proximity of multiple marine life nursery sites, protected marine areas and importance of particular species including cuttlefish, crabs, snapper and prawns.
- Potential access restrictions to the coastline for tourism and recreation activities.
- Potential restrictions to recreational and commercial fishing due to intake/outfall pipelines.
- Co-location with several existing industrial and tourism operations was seen to have both advantages and disadvantages.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Marine impacts could be reduced by extending the pipeline into the deeper channel marine impacts and offset investment could reduce impacts on land.
- Not all respondents thought salinity would be a concern for the cuttlefish.



Crag Point

Crag Point was not generally supported for further investigation as a potential site.

Concerns

- Water is more saline.
- Unique tidal movements of the gulf are more prevalent.
- Water quality at this site would be more saline and polluted.
- High heritage, cultural and foreshore values at this site including the Shingleback Ridge.
- Difficult terrain and greater potential for hills-face disturbance.
- Greater interface with Department of Defence operations.
- Visual impacts to the area but also to the entire region.

Opportunities

- Less impact on people.
- Less social and environmental impacts.
- Shorter pipeline route.
- Could result in improved access to residential freehold properties.
- Visual impacts could be reduced by siting a plant in the valley.



Next steps

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF KEY ISSUES

Should the Northern Water Supply project continue, it will be critical that the key issues raised continue to be incorporated into the ongoing development of the project.

DECISION MAKING AND ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

- Continued open and transparent decision making, and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and the community is critical for community acceptance of the project.
- Ongoing dialogue following a pattern of listening, responding and feeding back how input has been integrated.

SITE SELECTION

- Communications to clearly explain the basis for short-listing sites as well as why a final study site was selected.
- Communicate to stakeholders and the community how the project intends to address the concerns raised by stakeholders and the community during the business case for the selected study site.

REALISATION OF PROJECT BENEFITS

- Accurate reporting, and peer review of expected environmental benefits is critical as part of any Environmental Impact Assessment process.
- Focus early stakeholder and community engagement on how community and environmental benefits can be achieved as a core component of the project's objectives.

LOCAL AMENITY IMPACTS

Early engagement with landholders and local community to understand and properly manage potential amenity impacts.

TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

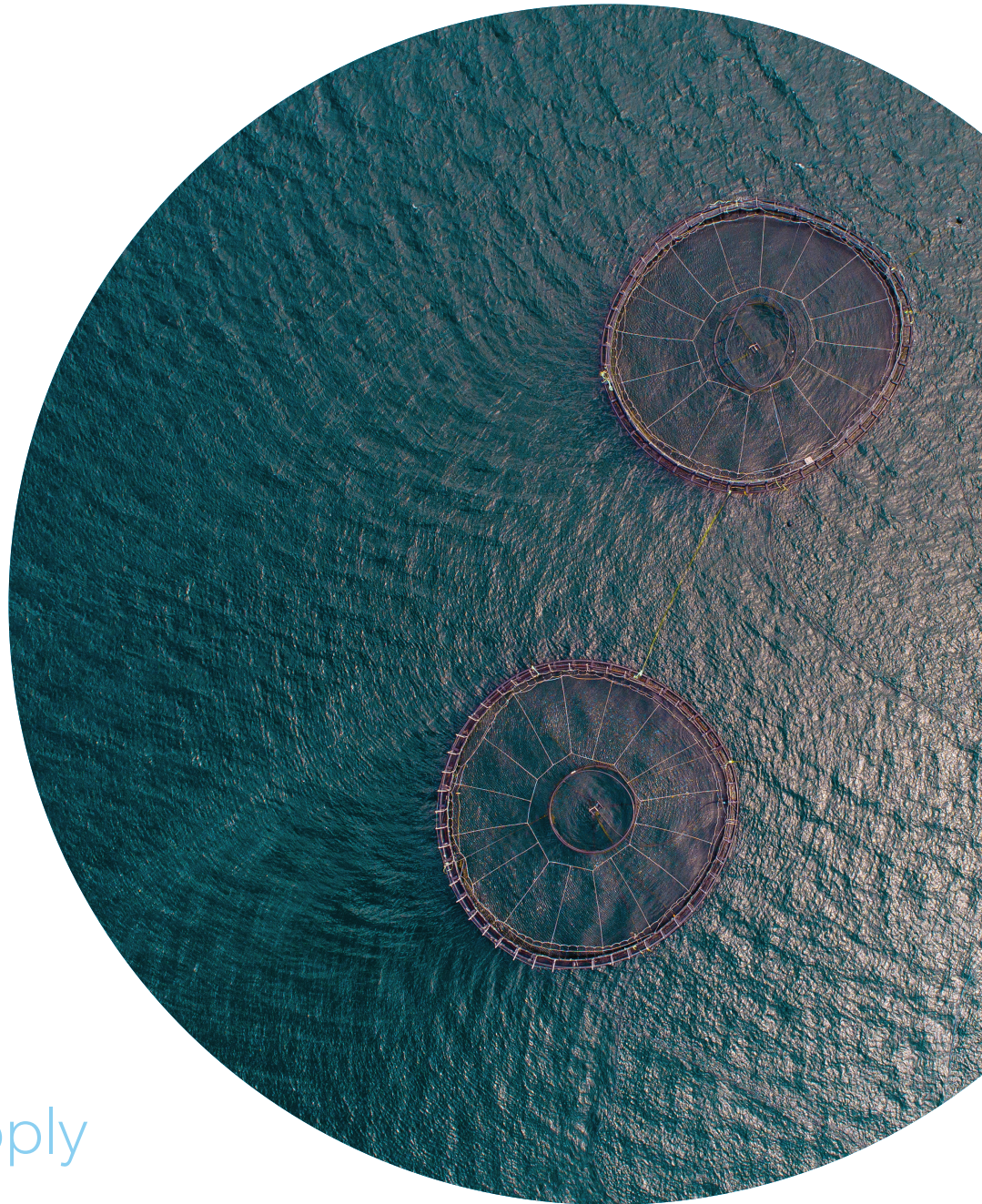
Terrestrial environmental issues have been largely overshadowed by potential marine impacts in engagement to date, however, areas of concern are expected to arise as more attention is given the pipeline route planning and impact assessment.

Engagement will include:

- full transparency regarding environmental impacts, offsets, management and monitoring
- genuine engagement on issues of concern and detailed responses when appropriate from the project
- quantify and communicate the significant environmental benefits that the desalination plant will deliver
- demonstrate and promote compliance with environmental, native title and cultural heritage legislation.

IMPACTS ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT – INCLUDING CUTTLEFISH PROTECTION AND MARINE INDUSTRY IMPACTS

- Continue to engage with stakeholders in the development and review of studies looking at the impact of the proposed development on the marine environment.
- Undertake the engagement activities that focus on communicating the relevant scope and outcomes of technical investigations, and their peer review for wider critique.
- Share information in a timely manner and early in the environmental assessment process to allow responses to be informed by scientific evidence. This will ensure that studies are transparent and accountable to the wider public.
- Significant focus should be placed on accurately communicating the outcomes of marine studies, including peer reviews on the water quality of the Gulf, including early identification of concerns and issues so that this can be fed back into follow-up investigations and studies.
- Invite key stakeholder group representatives to review and comment on research, as well as provide input into the assessment process.
- All relevant marine environmental studies and reports independently peer reviewed and made publicly available.
- Continued engagement with fishing associations to ensure they are satisfied their concerns are being appropriately addressed.
- Ensure marine environmental studies consider all relevant species.



Northern Water Supply

BUSINESS CASE

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT



Government of
South Australia



InfrastructureSA

GET IN CONTACT



(08) 8429 4650



northernwatersupply@sa.gov.au



northernwatersupply.sa.gov.au