

Northern Water Project – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

About the development

The Northern Water project seeks to provide a secure, climate resilient water source for industry in South Australia's Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North.

The Project comprises four main components:

1. **Desalination plant:** construction and operation of a 51 GL/y seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant.
2. **Desalination plant marine infrastructure:** marine intake and outfall tunnels extending underneath the seabed and into Spencer Gulf waters; seawater intake pipes, structures and pumps; outfall pipe and diffusers structures.
3. **Transfer system:** approximately 406km total length comprising 360km main transfer pipeline to a delivery point at Olympic Dam; a 46km lateral branch pipeline to a delivery point at Carrapateena mine; and a series of pump stations and storage facilities.
4. **Electricity supply infrastructure:** including new high voltage transmission lines, network and facility substations.

Various supporting and enabling works will also be undertaken, including telecommunications infrastructure, temporary construction-related infrastructure, access tracks, enabling roadworks and road upgrades.

About the applicant

The project is being proposed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), a state government agency.

DIT is responsible for progressing all state and Commonwealth planning and environmental assessments, pre-delivery activities, and the procurement of a Design, Building, Operate and Maintain (DBOM) contract.

DIT is likely to remain as the responsible agency for the design and build phase of the DBOM contract.

Development Assessment Process

DIT has lodged a development application for the Northern Water Project, which is being assessed as an Impact Assessed Development under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

This is the most rigorous level of development assessment in South Australia and is reserved for projects that are of economic, social or environmental importance to the state. The assessment process is organised by the Department for Housing and Urban Development (DHUD).

A fundamental requirement of this process is the preparation of an EIS. The Northern Water EIS has been prepared by DIT following early engagement with government agencies, councils, landholders, Traditional Owners, and community representatives.

As part of the assessment process, the EIS is now open for public consultation from 29 October 2026 to 11 December 2026, and we are seeking your feedback.

How to access the EIS

The EIS can be accessed online at plan.sa.gov.au and yoursay.sa.gov.au/northern-water-project-EIS.

Hard copies are available to view at:

- Department for Housing and Urban Development: Level 9, 83 Pirie Street, Adelaide (please call PlanSA on 1800 752 664 beforehand to confirm access arrangements)
- Whyalla City Council Civic Building at 21 Grundel Street, Whyalla Norrie
- Whyalla City Council Library at 19 Ekblom Street, Whyalla Norrie
- Port Augusta City Council Civic Centre and Library at 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta
- Roxby Downs Council Office at 6 Richardson Place, Roxby Downs

To purchase a hard copy, please contact PlanSA on 1800 752 664.

Share your feedback on the EIS

You are invited to provide your feedback on the EIS. Your feedback can be provided in various ways:

- complete the survey on yoursay.sa.gov.au/northern-water-project-EIS
- complete the online submission form on plan.sa.gov.au/have_your_say/notified_developments
- download a submission form from plan.sa.gov.au and email to spcreps@sa.gov.au (subject: Northern Water Project EIS Submission) or

- post to:

Minister for Planning
Attention: Robert Kleeman, Manager, Crown and Impact Assessment
Planning and Building
Department for Housing and Urban Development
GPO Box 1815, ADELAIDE SA 5000.

Upcoming information sessions

Join a community drop-in session or online information session with DHUD and DIT representatives to learn about the project and the impact assessment process.

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday 11 November 2026	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Standpipe Golf Motor Inn: 3/5 Daw Street, Port Augusta West
Thursday 12 November 2026	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Westland Hotel Motel: Palms Function Room, 100 McDouall Stuart Ave, Whyalla Norrie
Monday 16 November 2026	4:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Roxby Downs Auditorium: 15/1 Richardson Place, Roxby Downs
Wednesday 25 November 2026	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Online. Pre-registration is required at plansaevents.eventbrite.com.au

Next steps

The consultation closes on **Friday 11 December 2026**. All submissions will be provided to DIT for their consideration and review.

DIT will then prepare a Response Document, which outlines the feedback received, addresses issues raised during consultation, and outlines any changes to the project.

The Chief Executive of DHUD will then consider the whole proposal, including the EIS, council and state agency comments and public feedback, and prepare an Assessment Report.

The Chief Executive will provide the Assessment Report with recommendations to the Minister for Planning for consideration in making a decision on the proposal.

At the conclusion of the assessment process, all submissions will be published on the PlanSA website, with personal details such as names and email address redacted.

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.