



The Northern Water project

Unlocking economic growth in industries and regions crucial to achieving net-zero carbon emission targets while reducing reliance on precious water resources.

South Australia is on the cusp of re-industrialisation driven by the global energy transition towards a reduced net-zero carbon emissions future, with development focused around Upper Spencer Gulf, Eastern Eyre Peninsula and the Far North of the State.

Rich with critical and strategic minerals, including copper, graphite and magnetite, and home to an abundance of sun and wind for renewable power generation, South Australia is in prime position to be a world leader. The missing element – access to reliable, secure and sustainable water.

Industries in the Far North of South Australia and the Upper Spencer Gulf currently rely on water from the Great Artesian Basin and the River Murray. Northern Water's proposed desalination project provides the opportunity for a new and climate independent water source, reducing reliance on the state's precious natural water resources.

The renewable energy transition requires high volumes of minerals including copper. With access to a sustainable, reliable water supply South Australia could increase raw production of copper and undertake further value add processes locally.

The emerging green hydrogen industry can also play a significant role in the energy transition. Green hydrogen uses water and energy sourced from renewables to generate hydrogen via electrolysis. When combined with the locally available magnetite resources, green hydrogen can be used to make green steel and create new local green steel opportunities.

The proposal

The project includes a large coastal seawater desalination plant located at Cape Hardy on the Eyre Peninsula, with a transfer pipeline system. Water will be treated to a drinkable standard, but Northern Water will not be registered as a drinking water provider.



4,200
FTE SA Jobs



\$5.2b
Increase of
state's GSP

A new water supply to unlock resources, activate industry investment and expansion, create jobs for South Australians, and deliver regional community development opportunities for generations to come.

69%



**OF AUSTRALIA'S
COPPER
RESOURCES ARE IN
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

GLOBAL COPPER DEMAND

2023

25Mt

2025

31Mt

2030

40Mt

2035

49Mt



600KM

Transfer pipeline



Pipeline network connecting the new desalination plant to customers and supporting infrastructure



Various offtake and lateral points along the way

Project funding

The current stage of the project is jointly funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments, together with private industry through the Foundation Water Users' Group.

The cost of planning, design, construction, operation and financing of the project will be recovered through long-term water purchase agreements, and commercial agreements that are currently being negotiated with future water users.

Water users currently considering or committed to water purchase agreements include hydrogen, exploration and mining, renewable energy, defence, and pastoral industries.

The South Australian Office of Northern Water Delivery is delivering the project.

What is a Final Investment Decision (FID)

A Final Investment Decision (FID) is the decision to proceed with building a project.

A FID about Northern Water will be made by the Government of South Australia once there is sufficient certainty about the overall project cost, risk and benefits to make a decision in the state's best interest.

The FID will be informed by project elements and state strategic priorities. Project elements informing FID include construction and operation cost, customer purchasing commitments, environmental assessment, land access, Traditional Owner consents, community and stakeholder feedback, and overall project risk factors.

Contact us

Stakeholder engagement is a fundamental part of the Northern Water project. If you have any questions or feedback about the project, we encourage you to contact the team.

