

Monday, 21 January, 2007

### **TENDERS CALLED FOR DESALINATION PILOT PLANT PROVIDER**

Minister for Water Security Karlene Maywald says companies are being invited to register their interest in designing, constructing and operating a temporary pilot desalination plant at Port Stanvac.

“The \$10 million pilot plant will test water quality, filtration and pre-treatment technology required for the 50-gigalitre plant planned for Gulf St Vincent,” Minister Maywald said.

“The plant will be installed by the end of July and is another step in the detailed design work currently under way on the full-scale plant.”

Minister Maywald says stage 1 of pilot plant testing will run for 6-12 months to assess the pre-treatment process in a range of climatic conditions. Stage 2 will involve up to 6 months of reverse osmosis membrane testing.

“The pilot plant study phase will typically pump a small quantity of sea water through an automatically monitored and controlled treatment process.

“This very small plant will help determine the key design criteria and processes that will allow seawater to be pre-treated to a sufficient quality and at a feasible cost for desalination in the gulf.

“The expressions of interest tender process shows the government is moving ahead very quickly with this project. Full environmental and planning approvals for the plant will be sought as work continues.

“The \$3 million environmental baseline study for the Gulf St Vincent is continuing and then a full environmental assessment will be conducted.

“Building a desalination plant is an extremely complex and expensive undertaking but desalination is a key component of the Government’s strategy of securing Adelaide’s drinking water supply into the future.

“This Adelaide Desalination Project will be one of the State’s biggest infrastructure projects. We have already undertaken a significant amount of planning work and it is vital we get these initial studies right.”