



Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Community Committee for Recycled Water Storage

Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme  
Meeting 1  
11 November 2015



# Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Scene setting
  - Northern Economic Plan
  - Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme
4. Terms of Reference
5. Outcomes of engagement phase 1
6. Focus for future meetings
7. Meeting arrangements
8. Other business
9. Next meeting



# Introductions

## SA Water

- Jane Wilson, A/Manager Stakeholder Engagement
- Mark Wilson, Senior Manager Business Development
- Chloe Ringwood, Stakeholder Engagement Officer

## Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)

- Stephen Dubrich, Manager Strategic Development



## SA Water

- Owned by the South Australian Government
- Governed by a Board of Directors
- Reports to the Minister for Water, Ian Hunter MP
- Regulated by the Essential Services Commission of SA
- ESCOSA is the independent regulator of water retailers in South Australia, SA Water is one of these.
- ESCOSA license, regulate retail prices and monitor performance



Government  
of South Australia



# Scene setting



# Northern Economic Plan

- Stephen Dubrich  
Manager, Strategic Development  
Primary Industries and Regions SA



## Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme

- SA Water is looking at ways to increase the volume of recycled water available for horticultural irrigation in the Northern Adelaide Plains to stimulate economic and job growth in the region.
- Currently, through the Virginia Pipeline Scheme, approximately 17 Gigalitres of recycled water is supplied to about 350 customers in and around Virginia and Angle Vale. The Virginia Pipeline Scheme is currently owned and operated by Trility Pty Ltd.
- The Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme proposes to make use of a further 20 Gigalitres of recycled water from SA Water's Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant.

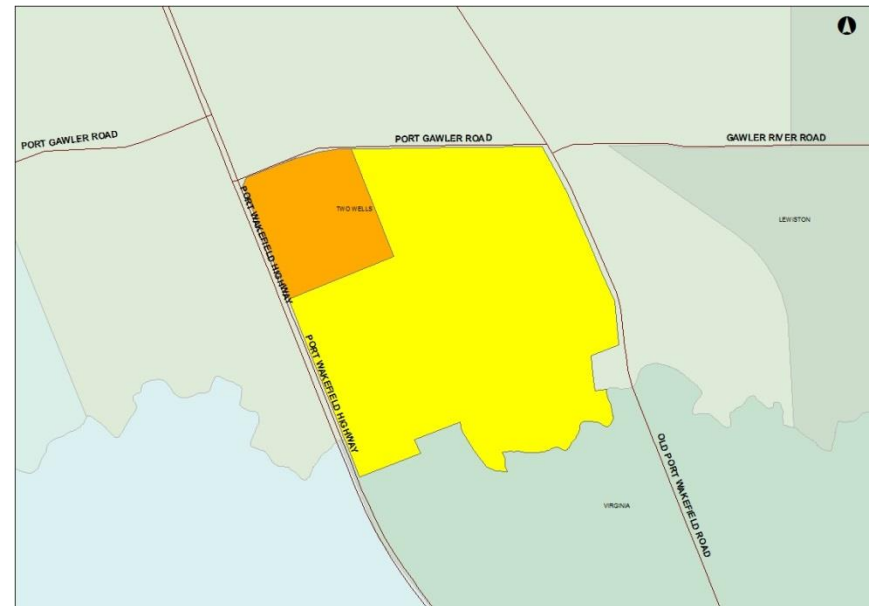
# Recycled Water Storage

- NAIS proposes to make use of recycled water produced throughout the year
- Recycled water produced during the wetter months requires storage to use in drier months
- Additional 20 Gigalitres of water available:
  - 8 Gigalitres of summer water available dependent upon additional infrastructure
  - 12 Gigalitres of winter water available subject to storage
- There are two broad options for how water may be stored:
  - Above-ground storage in one or more holding ponds
  - Below-ground storage to the local aquifer through a process called Managed Aquifer Recovery (MAR)



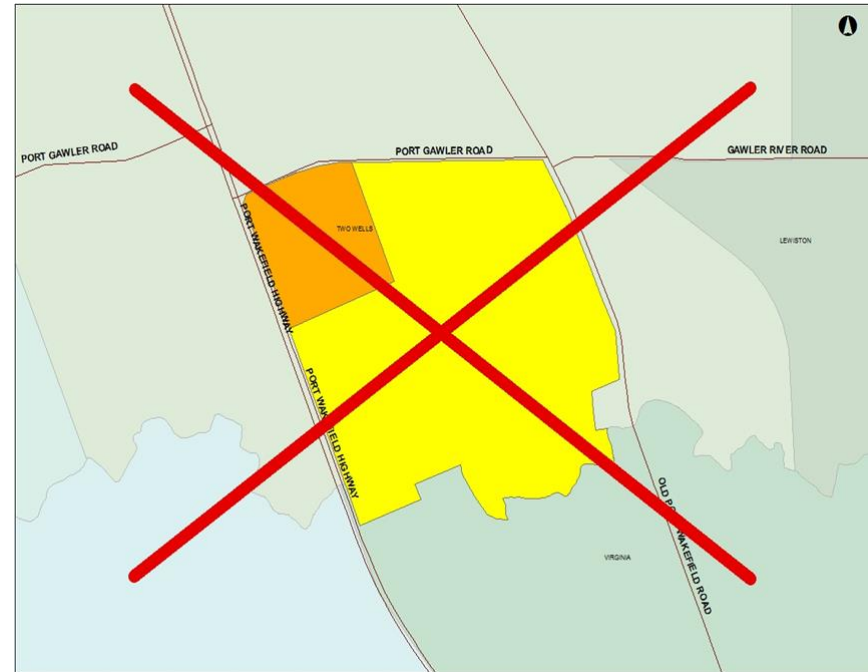
## Recycled Water Storage – Managed Aquifer Recharge

- SA Water initiated a project to investigate the feasibility of storing recycled water in the T2 aquifer.
- The investigation established that the site could store about 650 Megalitres of recycled water using two injection bores.



## Recycled Water Storage – Community response

- The investigation caused community concern focused on recycled water being injected into any aquifer that could be accessed for domestic purposes.
- In response to the community concerns, SA Water decided not to proceed.
- SA Water started a community engagement process focused on establishing agreement on sustainable and economically viable storage solutions.



# Community Engagement

- Develop a process to enable the community to:
  - Express their views
  - Input to SA Water’s decision making
  - Identify solutions to issues
  - Share information (local knowledge, technical data)
- Deliver a Master Plan for Recycled Water Storage in the Northern Adelaide Plains to enable:
  - provision of more recycled water to the region
  - economic development and jobs growth for the State

## Approach to the market

- In parallel with engagement process, SA Water released an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the market (27 August 2015).
- The Expression of Interest has been developed to provide the opportunity for the private sector to offer proposals for the collection and use of the additional 20 Gigalitres of recycled water from the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant.

## Approach to the market

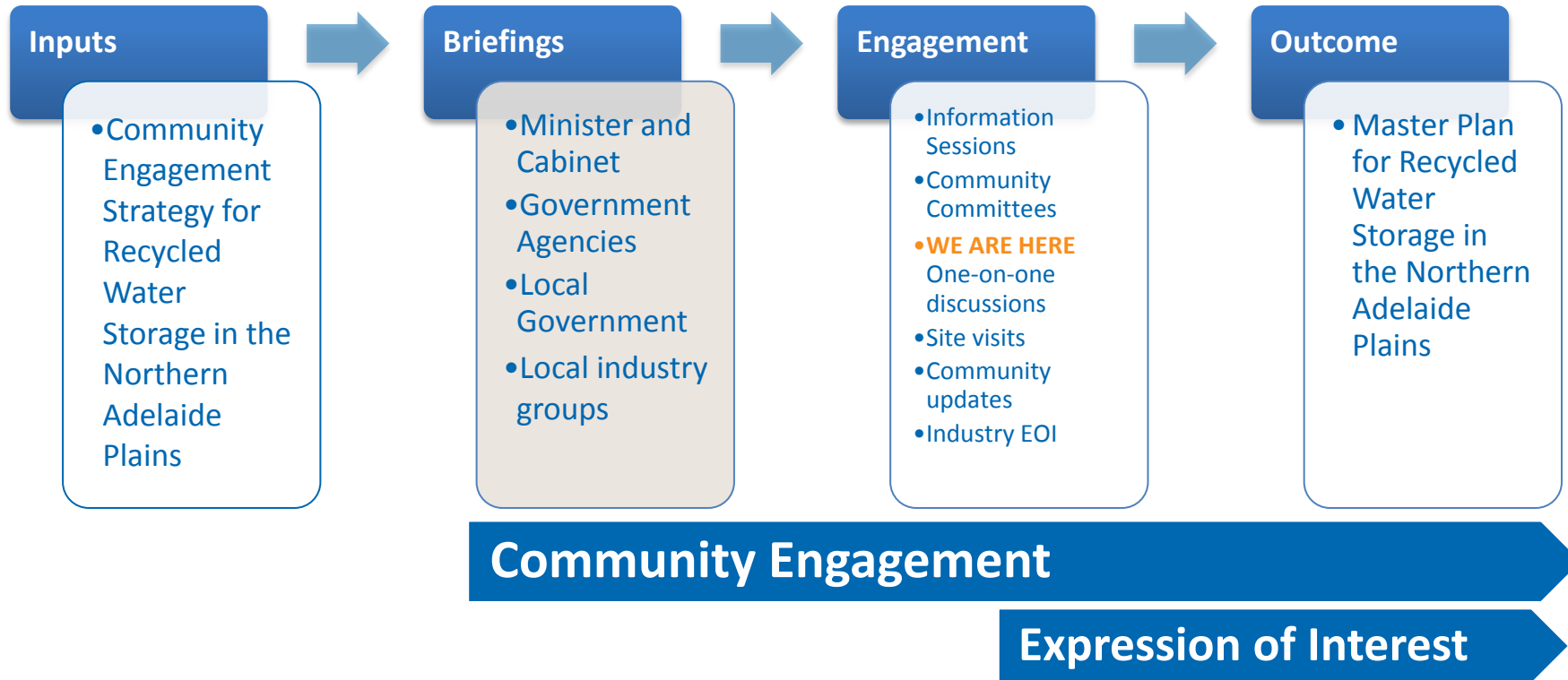
- The Expression of Interest states there are 3 distinct project requirements that SA Water is seeking:
  - economic development
  - engineering and construction solutions
  - management opportunities.
- While there are benefits for SA Water to use a land based disposal for treated water, the sole driver for this project is to use the additional treated wastewater to generate a sustained economic benefit for South Australia.

## Expression of Interest

*“SA Water is currently engaging with the local community to hear their thoughts about the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme, including the different storage options. The engagement process will include information sessions and enable the establishment of a committee to work with SA Water to develop a Master Plan for Recycled Water Storage in the Northern Adelaide Plains.*

*The outcomes of the engagement process will be provided to shortlisted respondents to facilitate the development of a Selective Request for Proposal (SRFP) response from a stakeholder perspective and it will be expected that the outcomes of this process will inform final proposals”.*

# Engagement Process





Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Terms of Reference



## Terms of Reference

1. Context
2. Purpose and role of Committee
3. Membership
4. Member responsibilities
5. Conduct
6. Conflict resolution
7. Meetings
8. Media
9. Communication protocols



Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Outcomes of engagement Phase 1

## Phase 1 overview

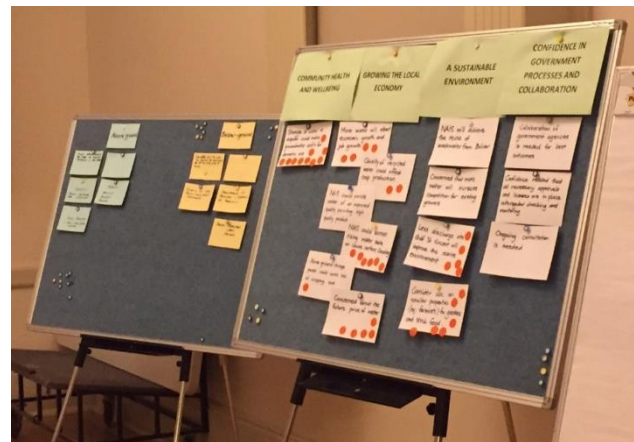
- Local Government, local industry groups and government agency briefings:
  - Mallala and Playford Councils
  - Government Agencies (NRMB, DEWNR, PIRSA, DSD, EPA, Dept of Health)
  - HortEx, Virginia Irrigators Association, Horticulture Coalition of SA, AusVeg SA, Vietnamese Farmers Associations
  - Invitations to information sessions – over 4,500
- Community information sessions (8 sessions)

## Phase 1 Outcomes – Stakeholder Issues and Opportunities

- Briefing meetings held with Government Agencies, Local Councils and Industry Associations
- Meetings provided range of issues and opportunities that need to be considered and insight into broader community interests
- Key issues and opportunities can be grouped as follows:
  - Community Health and Wellbeing
  - Growing the local economy
  - A sustainable future
  - Confidence in Government Processes and Collaboration

## Phase 1 Outcomes – Community Issues and Opportunities

- 8 community information sessions held, one Vietnamese translated session
- Over 260 people had registered and 142 actually attended
- The sessions had two parts:
  - Part 1, NAIS issues and opportunities
  - Part 2, recycled water storage options and criteria



## Community Information Sessions – Part 1

- Participants provided with pre-populated list which was discussed and additional issues added
- Participants identified their top three issues/opportunities
- Five priority issues were identified:
  - Ensuring that native groundwater sources are protected for future use, including domestic supplies, if the aquifer is used for the storage of recycled water;
  - That the rising water table and surface flooding issues currently being experienced are not worsened by using the aquifer for the storage of recycled water;
  - That the current price of recycled water is not substantially impacted by the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme;
  - That crop production and yield is not negatively impacted by the quality of recycled water, i.e. high levels of Sodium Chloride; and
  - That the aquifer is protected from any long-term impacts that may be caused by the storage of recycled water.

## Community Information Sessions – Part 2

- Participants were invited to suggest criteria (success factors) that they would want to see in place for both above and below ground storage solutions
- The criteria identified by participants generally fit into one of the following categories:
  - Water Quality
  - Approvals, Licenses and Monitoring
  - Location



Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Focus of future meetings



## Future meeting topics

- Recycled water quality – Public Health
- Recycled water quality – Environment
- Visit to Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Managed Aquifer Recharge research and findings (Bolivar)
- Aquifer structure and hydrology
- Licensing, Approvals and Monitoring
- Workshop and location identification
- Workshop Draft Master Plan for Recycled Water in the Northern Adelaide Plains



Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Meeting arrangements



## Meeting arrangements

- Day, time, place for meetings
- Frequency of meetings
- Christmas period
- Availability for visit to Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant



Government  
of South Australia



SA Water

# Other business

## Broader communication methods

- Phase 1 Community Engagement Report
  - Summary mailed to all who registered for community information sessions and to be added to mailing list
  - Full report available through SA Water website
- Community committee outcomes
  - Newsletters/ updates - SA Water website, hard-copy post and electronic
  - Agendas, minutes and papers – SA Water website
- Media updates
  - The Bunyip, The Plains Producer, Two Wells Echo, Local Vietnamese newspaper
- Draft Master Plan for Recycled Water Storage
  - Feedback solicited through public open house, mail, website



Government  
of South Australia



# Next meeting