

Eyre Peninsula Water Demand and Supply Statement

ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE EYRE PENINSULA DEMAND AND SUPPLY STATEMENT?

In reviewing all supplies and demands for water on the Eyre Peninsula, the 2013 Annual Review finds that drinking water is secure until 2024-25. The primary factor contributing to this finding is a higher allocation of groundwater from the Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Area for 2014-15 water year. The allocation is about 446 megalitres higher than the previous year due to higher recharge rates associated with higher rainfall.

The 2013 review found that mains water consumption in 2012-13 water year was about 840 megalitres lower than the year before. The review recorded a 4045 megalitre surplus of drinking quality water across the Eyre Peninsula. Assessment of population growth found that population is growing at a lower rate than projected in the original EP Statement leading to lower water demand.

HOW MANY ANNUAL REVIEWS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO DATE AND WHAT HAVE THEY FOUND?

Since the release of the original Eyre Peninsula Demand and Supply Statement in April 2011, three reviews have been completed and released in April 2012, June 2013 and July 2014.

Over this time, new climate change information was developed which indicates that climate change impacts on water resources will be less severe than projected in the original Statement. Comparison of actual population growth with projections used in the original Statement also shows that population is growing at a lower rate than originally anticipated. Both these findings have the effect of postponing the timing of originally projected water shortfalls by several years.

The reviews also identified the impact of annual changes to available groundwater associated with variations in groundwater recharge rates driven by rainfall. Total groundwater allocations in Prescribed Wells Areas of the Eyre Peninsula can vary by several hundred megalitres year to year and this either brings forward or postpones the timing of projected water shortfalls by a few years. It is therefore important to remain vigilant and continue to review the latest information through the annual reviews. The next annual review will be available in mid-2015.

WHAT DOES THE ORIGINAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND STATEMENT SAY?

The original Statement summarises all water supplies and demands in the Eyre Peninsula region and projects this information to 2050 to identify when demand is anticipated to outstrip supply.

Water supplies include water from River Murray, prescribed and non-prescribed groundwater sources as well as surface water from Tod reservoir and farm dams. Water supplies are also estimated and projected from future desalination plants used for mining activities and from existing and future wastewater and stormwater sources.

Water demands include residential and non-residential uses as well as tourism. Water use is also estimated for irrigation, livestock and the mining industry.

At the time of the Statement's release it was projected that under a worst-case scenario of high population growth and high climate change impacts demand for drinking quality water would not outstrip supply until 2017-18. All consecutive annual reviews have postponed this shortfall by several years.

Copies of the Eyre Peninsula Demand and Supply Statement and the annual reviews can be obtained from <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/water-use/water-planning/regional-demand-and-supply-statements>.

WHAT IS A DEMAND AND SUPPLY STATEMENT?

Demand and supply statements outline the state and condition of all water resources in a region for drinking and non-drinking quality water, list major demands on these water resources, and identify likely timeframes when water demand exceeds supply.

Where sufficient data is available, the statements project all water supplies and demands for a region and any possible future demand-supply imbalance so that sensible decisions can be made to secure a region's water supply prior to actually realising a shortfall.

Demand and supply statements summarise all available information about water demands and supplies in the region. They are based on historical data and projections on future demands and supplies.



HOW ARE DEMAND SUPPLY STATEMENTS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER WATER PLANNING PROCESSES?

Regional demand and supply statements are separate from other water planning processes such as SA Water's Long Term Plans and regional Natural Resources Management (NRM) Plans.

While the statements use a broad range of data, including that developed through other processes, their aim is to discuss water supplies and demands over the long term (40 years) and to report on drinking and non-drinking water for the entire region.

The statements are high level, strategic documents that allow regions to remain vigilant about the adequacy of all their water supplies.

SA Water's Long Term Plans have a more focussed approach for augmenting SA Water's assets and guiding capital works programs with the aim of meeting customers' potable water requirements.

The statements are also different from regional NRM Plans and water allocation plans which ensure that water resources are used fairly taking into account the needs of all water users and the environment.

You can learn more about water planning for South Australia at www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/water-use/water-planning.

WHO DEVELOPS THE STATEMENTS AND WHY?

The statements are developed by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) in consultation with key regional stakeholders such as Natural Resources Management Boards, Regional Development Australia, local government and SA Water. Government agencies such as Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and the Department of State Development are also engaged to provide critical information about the region.

Water security across the State is a priority for the Government. The development of demand and supply statements for the regions is a requirement of *Water for Good*, South Australia's water plan and the *Water Industry Act 2012*.

The development of the statements ensures that the Government remains vigilant about water security in South Australia. The statements ensure that projections of future water shortages are identified with sufficient lead time to avert the shortfalls by developing regional demand and supply based solutions.

HOW MANY DEMAND AND SUPPLY STATEMENTS WILL BE DEVELOPED?

A demand and supply statement will be developed for each of South Australia's eight NRM regions and reviewed annually.

The Eyre Peninsula Regional Demand and Supply Statement is the first to be completed. The Northern and Yorke Demand and Supply Statement was released in December 2011 followed by statements for Alinytjara Wilurara and the South Australian Arid Lands released in December 2013. Annual reviews have been completed for the Eyre Peninsula and Northern and Yorke regions.

Statements will be comprehensively reviewed every 5 years.

WHAT DO DEMAND AND SUPPLY STATEMENTS INCLUDE?

Demand and supply statements provide a summary of all available information relating to water demands and supplies in each NRM region.

This includes information on water resources including surface water, groundwater, desalinated seawater, wastewater and stormwater. Information is provided about rivers, dams, reservoirs and creeks as well as the impacts of climate change.

The statements project the availability of drinking and non-drinking quality water and assess water demands for residential and non-residential purposes. Water use is assessed for irrigation, livestock and other major industries in the region. The statements reference all information used in their preparation and detail any assumptions used in the development of the demand and supply projections.

WHAT WILL THE STATEMENTS BE USED FOR?

In accordance with *Water for Good* an independent planning process will be initiated 5 years before the projected shortfall in water supplies identified by a demand and supply statement.

The independent planning process will be regionally driven and will evaluate demand management and supply augmentation options to address any future supply shortfalls.

For more information

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