

Integrated Water Strategy *Desalination*

May 2007

Project History

Miriam Vale Shire Council is faced with an urgent need for water.

Sustained high growth in Agnes Water has generated the need to provide a reliable water supply in the region as soon as possible. As well, nearby Seventeen Seventy residents are currently not connected to reticulated water or sewerage systems.

Local residents are very responsible water users, with potable water consumption within both Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy very low by regional standards. This has enabled Miriam Vale Shire Council to investigate and implement the most appropriate, sustainable water system for the region's future.

Historically, water supplies have been sourced primarily from the area's limited groundwater supplies extracted from the coastal dunal system and rain water. Currently in Agnes Water, groundwater is extracted from Council bores, treated and reticulated for potable use. Water from private bores is predominantly for external household use.

In 2004, Council commissioned URS to carry out a detailed electromagnetic survey for groundwater, however it failed to discover a suitable supply.

After exploring all recycled, reuse and reticulation options, two options to provide water to the region were found to be feasible:

- Pipeline from Awoonga Dam near Gladstone; and
- Desalination Plant at Agnes Water.

Following consideration of a number of factors, including greenhouse gas emissions, whole of life cost and delivery of the most robust and reliable water supply solution, Council has opted to implement a desalination plant at Agnes Water.

Expressions of interest for the design, construction and maintenance of the plant, closed on May 18, 2007 and a successful tenderer is expected to be announced by the end of the year.

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