Pg. 1. 15/2/07.

LIZ PENFOLD

Ceduna Pharmacy
chemplus
Ken McCarthy
SUMMER HAT
CLEARANCE
BIG SAVINGS

West Coast Sentinel
Established 1912

New Season Wool lots of different colours
Whitmarsh's
8625 2023

Pipeline blockage?

Desal project waits on SA Water

A potential private enterprise solution to the Far West's water supply problems has been waiting for SA Water's approval for almost a year.

The proponent of a modular solar-powered desalination plant proposed south of Penong claims it can supply Ceduna, Streaky Bay and environs with 2.5 million litres of drinking water a day.

It would combine three leading-edge technologies for the first time to convert seawater into drinking water with no emissions - producing only drinking water and brine waste water.

The brine would be pumped into the neighbouring Cheetham salt works' pondage.

The drinking water would give Penong its first town water supply and be pumped into a proposed extension of the Ceduna District Council-owned Water West pipeline from Ceduna to Koonibba - the council currently buys water from SA Water and pipes it to Koonibba in its own pipeline because that was a cheaper option than for SA Water to supply Koonibba.

If SA Water were to give permission for its infrastructure to be used, the desalinated water could be reticulated around Ceduna through existing water mains and back-flowed through existing pipelines to Smoky Bay and Streaky Bay.

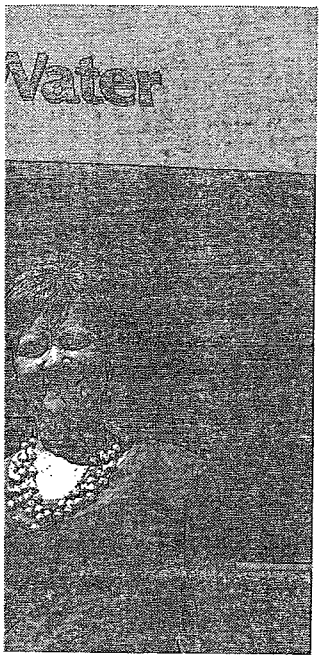
Cynergy Pty Ltd put up the estimated $20 million desalination plant proposal in 2005.

The company has a memorandum of understanding with Ceduna Council over the project and use of its Water West pipeline, agreements in principle with Cheetham Salt Ltd and Gypsum Resources Australia Pty Ltd - its potential neighbours south of Penong, and the support of the Eyre Regional Development Board.

It is understood Premier Mike Rann and some members of his Cabinet are aware of the proposal. With State Cabinet visiting Port Lincoln earlier this week, Flinders MP Liz Penfold has called on Premier Rann to "fast-track" the desalination plant proposal and approval for it to be plumbed into existing SA Water infrastructure in the Far West.

Continued Page 4

Attachment 11



arlene Maywald met with SA
r manager Rob Hughes on
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RS

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sources.
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millions of times more water
to sea than nature intended.
would be detrimental to the
vater marine life and plants.
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vater to fill Sydney Harbour
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Beattie stated the SE
nd Water grid would cost $8

Desalination plant waits on SA Water for answer

From Page 1

While describing the Eyre Peninsula water supply situation as a "disaster", Mrs Penfold said: "It is clear that a desalination plant at Ceduna has to be considered as part of a much-needed West Coast water solution".

She said that SA Water, in an endeavour to maintain drinking water supplies to Streaky Bay, was taking water from the already over-drawn Uley underground basin near Port Lincoln, chlorinating it, pumping it to Streaky Bay, dechlorinating it and pumping it back into the ground to replenish the Robinson Basin near there.

As well, a second pipeline was being surveyed to duplicate the 65-kilometre pipeline, constructed in 2003 by SA Water at a cost of $7.8 million, to connect Streaky Bay to the main Tod-Ceduna pipeline, she said.

Cynergy spokesman Bruce Higgs said this week he had written to SA Water in the early part of last year seeking approval to use its water infrastructure to distribute desalinated water from the proposed Penong plant, but was still waiting on a reply.

"It might have been in March (last year) we contacted them, I can't remember the exact date - but we've been waiting for a reply for a substantial time," Mr Higgs said.

"In engineering terms the project is ready to go.

"We have memorandums of understanding or agreements in principle with everyone concerned - except SA Water.

"The only glitch has been SA Water."

Eyre Regional Development Board development manager, Jane Lowe, said the project was an "opportunity to secure a quality water supply for the Far West for the future.

"It (desalination plant) is a modular design so it's capacity can be increased as demand requires.

"Importantly, it would reduce the demand on the underground basins supplying the Eyre Peninsula with water by about 10 per cent - or about a gigalitre - a year," Ms Lowe said.

She said the proposal was aligned with the water supply objectives of the state's strategic plan, would reduce future dependence on Murray River water via the yet-to-be-completed Kimba-Iron Knob pipeline and could go ahead more quickly than the controversial BHP Billiton desalination proposal at Whyalla which faces a conflict with environmentalists and the Spencer Gulf aquaculture industry over the hyper-saline wastewater.

Ceduna Mayor Allan Suter said the council strongly supported the project.

"It would give us much better water than we've got now," Mayor Suter said.

The West Coast Sentinel sought comment from SA Water's chief operating officer, John Ringham, and from Water Supply Minister Karlene Maywald's office on Monday and is still waiting.

Sun, sea, salt, water

The proposed Penong desalination plant would involve three specialist companies and combine three leading-edge technologies which have each been proved, but have not previously been combined to produce drinking water.

Solar Heat and Power Pty Ltd will provide the solar collector technology used to harness thermal energy.

Lloyd Energy Systems will provide the graphite block high temperature energy storage system and the steam turbine power generation system.

I.D.E. Technologies Ltd, one of the world's most experienced suppliers of desalination plants and technologies, will provide the mechanical vapour compression desalination technology.

Solar collectors will direct the sun's energy onto a pure graphite system which will store the energy as heat. Heat exchangers will turn water into high pressure steam which will drive a turbine to power generators producing electricity to run the plant.

Sea water will be pumped to the plant where salt and other minerals will be removed.

The pure water is proposed to be pumped into an extension of the Water West pipeline for distribution while the brine waste product will be pumped into the Cheetham salt works so the salt removed from the sea water can be harvested.