



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts**

Mr Graham Perrett MP
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

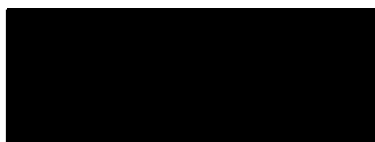
Dear Mr Perrett

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS WEST ISLAND SEAWATER REVERSE OSMOSIS
PLANT**

1. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) West Island Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Plant Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee) for consideration on 6 March 2023. The Project proposes to improve water security for the CKI West Island community through the installation of a SWRO plant.
2. This letter is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department for these proposed works. The aim of the consultation was to ensure the community and other stakeholders are:
 - a. well informed about the proposed works through effective and proven communication channels
 - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, the Department can address these in its proposed works.

3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities were delivered in accordance with the Project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
 - a. Details of community information forums were advertised in the community newsletter, The Atoll. The content of the advertisement was translated into Cocos Malay to ensure that all members of the local community were able to be made fully aware of the forums. The details are included in the example advertisement shown at Annex A.
 - b. Community information forums were conducted between 28 to 31 March 2023 on West Island and on Home Island. A community resident acted as a Cocos Malay translator during one meeting on Home Island to ensure locals were able to receive the information being presented and communicate with the presenters.
 - c. The type of information the Department presented at the community information forums is shown at Annex B, and details of attendance at the forums is provided at Annex C. In total, 19 people attended the community information forums on Home Island and West Island.
 - d. Key stakeholders, including Australian Government, the Shire of CKI and local community and business groups, were invited to receive an individual briefing about the Project. Where possible, information and suggestions received from the community, community leaders, local businesses and other key stakeholders will be incorporated into the Project's design and delivery methodology.
 - e. An example of the invitation that was sent to key stakeholders is at Annex D, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by the Project, including the status of each engagement, is provided at Annex E.
4. A Departmental email contact was included on the Project Fact Sheet provided to the Key Stakeholders to facilitate and receive questions from interested parties.
5. Information about the proposed works was very well received at the stakeholder briefings and community information forums, and the feedback was overwhelmingly supportive. The majority of comments received related to considerations of the impact of the works on the local community during the on-island construction, environmental considerations and whether the Project would generate job opportunities for the local population. A summary of topics and key issues raised during the briefings and community information forums is provided at Annex F.
6. In conclusion, no issues were identified during the Department's community consultation activities that might have an impact on the proposed works. I am satisfied that the Department has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the Project and has provided opportunities for the community to raise any concerns and questions.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Vandenbroek
First Assistant Secretary
Territories Division
5 April 2023

Annexes:

- A. Newsletter Advertisements
- B. Community Information Forum Resources – Information Resources and Fact Sheets
- C. Community Information Forums – Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Emails sent to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Briefings
- F. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Forums

ANNEX A

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements promoting the community information forums were placed in *The Atoll* community newsletter. *The Atoll* is produced by the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Community Resource Centre (CRC) once a fortnight and is distributed in hard copy to every registered postal address on West Island and Home Island. Additionally, an electronic version is emailed to their subscribers. The content of the Advertisement was translated into Cocos Malay to ensure that all members of the local community were able to be made fully aware of the forums.

Location	Publication	Details	Delivery Area	Date Published
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<i>The Atoll</i> Community Newsletter	Meeting notice	Every postal address on West Island and Home Island	10 March 2023
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<i>The Atoll</i> Community Newsletter	Project information	Every postal address on West Island and Home Island	24 March 2023
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	CKI CRC Facebook page	Meeting reminder	CKI CRC Facebook page	29 March 2023

THE ATOLL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023 EXAMPLE

"THE ATOLL" COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Public Notices

Notis – Notis Umum



Australian Government



Water Treatment Project

Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island

To support water security, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts will be undertaking a project on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) West Island to construct a new 200 kilolitres per day (kL/day) Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Plant.

The new SWRO plant will be located on Part Lot 100 Sydney Highway, adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment plant. To inform the SWRO plant design, water source drilling and testing activities were undertaken late last year.

The Department has referred the project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) for Parliamentary approval. The project can commence following PWC approval.

The PWC Report and Statement of Evidence for the project is available on the Department's website at [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands projects & community consultations | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

Community members and organisations now have an opportunity to comment on the project until 4 April 2023.

Following fabrication of the SWRO plant on the Australian mainland, it is expected that the project will commence on-island construction in August 2024 and be completed late 2024.

The project will be delivered by Water Corporation, who has been providing water and wastewater services to the CKI community since 2001.

The CKI community will be kept informed on progress of this project.

Should you have any questions, please email IOTSDA@infrastructure.gov.au.



INFO SESSION

Join representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, and Water Corporation to discuss the proposed Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant on West Island.

Bergabunglah dengan perwakilan dari Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications dan the Arts, dan Water Corporation untuk membincangkan tentang cadangan penyaring air laut di West Island.

Home Island – Cyclone Shelter / Rumah Masyarat di Home Island

Wednesday, 29 March 2023, 10.00am - 11.00am
Rebo 29hb Mac 2023, jam 10.00 - 11.00 pagi

West Island - CRC Conference Room
Kamar Meeting CRC di West Island

Thursday, 30 March 2023, 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Khamis, 30hb Mac 2023, jam 4.00 - 5.00 soreh

West Island – CRC Verandah Drop-in session
Sesi singgah di verandah CRC, West Island

Friday, 31 March 2023, 9.00am - 10.00am
Jumaat, 31hb Mac 2023, jam 9.00 - 10.00 pagi

For further information please contact info@cocosislandscrc.cc

Proudly Supported by:



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

ANNEX B

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

The below information summary contains the Project information which was used during the community information forum (28 to 31 March 2023)

Cocos (Keeling) Island (CKI) Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plant (SWRO) Project:
Community engagement

Introduction:

Mrs Jillian McCormack, Acting Assistant Director, Indian Ocean
Territories Government Arrangements, Department of
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

Ms Danielle Scott, Team Leader, Operations Support IOT, Water
Corporation

Mr Brent Ritchie, Assistant Director, Indian Ocean Territories
Government Arrangements

Mr Mirsad Abdic, Jacobs who is a member of the Project
management team.

Project Objectives:

The project team is meeting with you today regarding our
proposal for a new 200 kilolitres per day Seawater Reverse
Osmosis plant for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island. This
new plant will protect the community's water supply into the
future.

Existing potable water source:

The freshwater lens source is currently the only drinking water
source available for the local community. This water source is

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

located below the airfield runway and is subject to possible contamination through hydrocarbon and chemical spills from airport operations, as well as possible seawater intrusion into the groundwater (freshwater lens/zone). Due to its location, and environmental exposures, this water source is currently considered vulnerable by the Department and Water Corporation, the Department's provider of water and wastewater services on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Should any further contamination of the freshwater lenses occur, there is no other alternative drinking water source available on West Island.

As the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts the Australian Government has a duty of care to protect people and assets and provide a level of service comparable to similar mainland communities.

The proposed works will generate multiple benefits for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island community and Australian Government by protecting water security through a sustainable water source, ensuring safer, more liveable communities and continuity of economic activity.

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

Plant overview:

To address these problems, the Project proposes to construct a new 200 kilolitres per day Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands West Island to secure the community's drinking water supply into the future.

The plant will be housed in fabricated buildings, one containing the process plant, and the other containing an electrical/control room and storeroom.

The Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will be designed to provide a treated water quality in compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and to protect downstream infrastructure.

The Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will include the installation and fit-out of four beach bores (three duty, one standby) to feed the plant. The drilling of the five beach bores (four for the project and one spare for future use) was completed in November 2022, following Early Works Approval received from the Committee.

The plant will be a sister plant to the existing plant on Home Island. This provides opportunities for sharing operational spares, and builds on Water Corporation's five-years of technical experience in operating the Home Island plant.

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

Land management:

The Department has entered into a 10-year, plus 10-year option lease for the site.

On 24 November 2021, the Department received development approval for the plant and associated borefield from the Shire subject to the submission of final drawings for approval

Environmental approvals:

On 13 January 2023, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water advised that the SWRO plant was not a controlled action under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* allowing for development to proceed.

Project procurement process:

As the Department's supplier of water and wastewater to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Water Corporation will be undertaking the project through their Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement with the Australian Government, through the Department.

Project program:

Subject to Parliamentary approval, Water Corporation expects to engage a head contractor by November 2023,

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

The successful construction contractor is expected to commence construction late 2023 on the Australian mainland, with on-island works commencing August 2024 and practical completion forecast for late 2024.

The construction contractor will be accredited with both the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner, and Water Corporation's Tier 1 Health Safety and Environment as the project is a major work

Community benefit and local content:

The proposed Project works represent the best value for money to the Australian Government and delivers multiple benefits for the local community.

The Shire of Cocos was engaged to undertake the vegetation clearance for the bore field.

Construction workforce will benefit the local community through accommodation, meals, small business purchases, as well as recreational activities.

The project addresses the need to secure the community's drinking water supply and is affordable within the Project budget.

The project enables the Department to meet its obligations by protecting water security through a sustainable water source,

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

ensuring safer, more liveable communities and continuity of economic activity.

Parliamentary approval process

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will conduct a public hearing in Canberra on Friday, 21 April 2023 at 11.30am for up to one hour.

Public submissions on the proposal can be made through the Committee's website (www.aph.gov.au) and close on Tuesday, 4 April 2022.

ANNEX B

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES



ANNEX B

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION RESOURCES

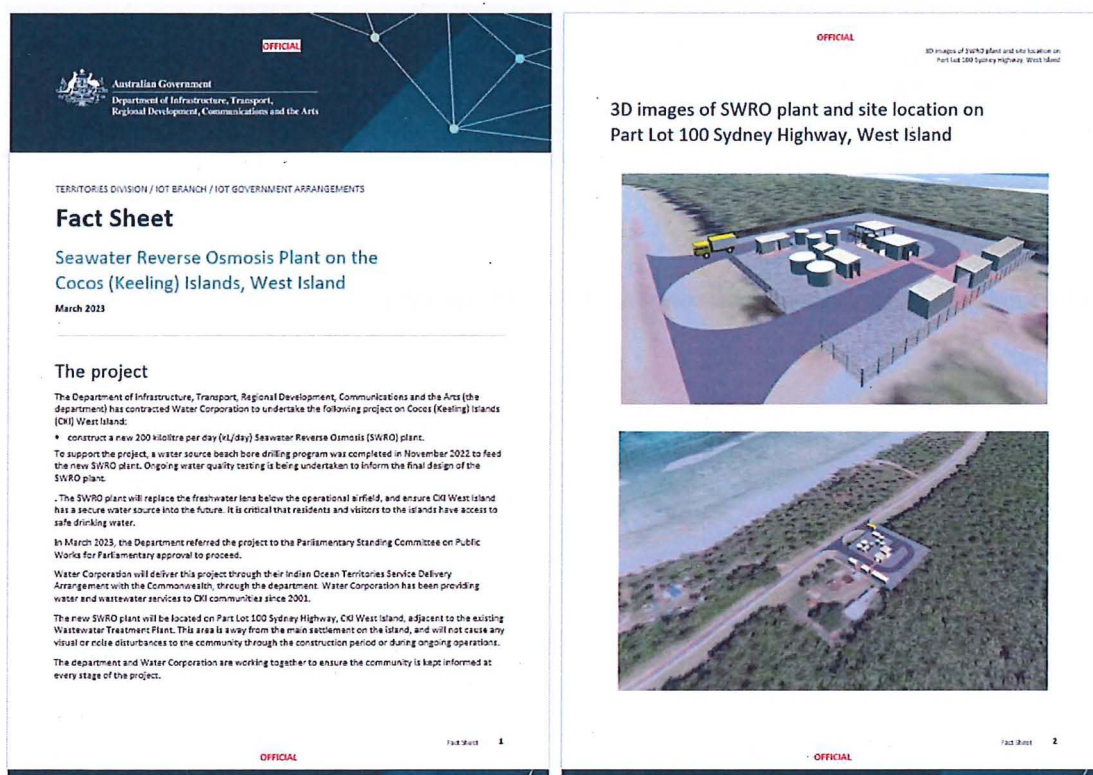



ANNEX B

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – FACT SHEETS

The following project handout was printed in A4 format, translated and made available to attendees at each community information forums held between 28 to 31 March 2023. The intent of the handout was to provide attendees with useful information that they could take home, consider and share amongst the wider community.

The fact sheets and Frequently Asked Questions are also available from the Department's website.





Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

OFFICIAL

TERRITORIES DIVISION / IOT BRANCH / IOT GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Frequently asked questions

Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plant on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, West Island

March 2023

What is the water project?

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) has contracted Water Corporation to undertake the following project on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) West Island:

- construct a new 200 kilolitre per day (kL/day) Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) Plant. This project also includes the water source drilling and testing activities for the SWRO plant production bores, which were completed in November 2022.

How much will the project cost?

The SWRO plant is estimated to cost \$19.6 million to construct. An additional \$1.2 million has been committed to design works. The Department of Defence has also committed funding to the project.

Why is the project being undertaken?

The CKI West Island water supply is sourced from a freshwater lens located below the operational airfield. The construction of a SWRO plant will replace reliance on the freshwater lens and ensure water security for the community into the future.

What will the SWRO plant look like?

The SWRO plant will be a sister plant to the water plant already in place on Home Island. Water Corporation has more than five years' experience in operating and maintaining the Home Island SWRO plant. As the water plants will be the same, operational spares can be used for either plant.

Where will the SWRO plant be located?

The new SWRO plant will be located on land adjacent to the existing wastewater treatment plant on Lot 100 Sydney Highway, CKI West Island.

This area is away from the main settlement on the island, and will not cause any visual or noise disturbances to the community through the construction period or during ongoing operations.

Traffic management plans will be put in place when the SWRO plant is transported from the port to site.

Who will be doing the project?

Water Corporation will deliver this project through their Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement with the Australian Government, through the Department. Water Corporation has been providing water and wastewater services to the CKI communities since 2001.

When will the work start?

In September 2022, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) approval was received to undertake the water source and beach bore drilling program. This drilling program provides information on water quality and will help inform the final design of the SWRO plant.

All other works will commence following PWC approval, with construction works on-island to commence in July 2024. The project will be completed late 2024.

How will the community be consulted?

The department and Water Corporation are working together to ensure the community is kept informed at every stage of the project. It is important that residents and visitors to the islands have access to safe drinking water and effective management of wastewater treatment.

Information and updates on the project will be made available to the community through media releases, community bulletins, fact sheets and the department's website. At times, members of the project team will be on CKI to talk directly to key stakeholders and community members.

How can I get further information?

If you require any further information regarding the SWRO plant, please contact the project team at OTDQA@infrastructure.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Frequently asked questions 1

OFFICIAL

Frequently asked questions 2

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – FACT SHEETS

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Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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Halaman Fakta

Mesin Reverse Osmosis Ayer Laot di Pulu Cocos (Keeling), Pulu Panjang

March 2023

Projeknya

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Department) telah mengkontrakkan Water Corporation untuk mengerjakan projek berikunya di Pulu Cocos (Keeling) (CK) Pulu Panjang:

- membangun mesin baru Reverse Osmosis Ayer Laot (SWRO) 200 kiloliter setiap hari (d/hari).

Untuk mengkontrak projek ini, program tender dipanggil untuk mencari sumber ayer telah diadakan pada November 2022 untuk langgan mesin ke mesin SWRO baru. Pemertanian kualiti air yang berterusan sedang dijalankan untuk memastikan mesin SWRO ini.

Mesin SWRO akan menggantikan ayer tawar bawah tanah di lapangan pemertanian, dan memastikan Pulu Panjang CK mempunyai kuantiti sumber ayer pada masa hadapan. Perkara sangat penting ialah penduduk dan pelawis ke Pulu mempunyai akses kepada air minuman yang selamat.

Pada March 2023, Department mengemukakan projek ini kepada Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works untuk kelulusan Parliamentary untuk dijalankan.

Water Corporation akan menjalankan projek ini melalui Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement mereka dengan Commonwealth, melalui agreement. Water Corporation telah memberikan senarai ayer dan syarikat ke masyarakat ini semenjak 2001.


Mesin SWRO baru ini akan ditempatkan di Sebahagian Lot 100 Sydney Highway, CK Pulu Panjang, disamping Mesin Reusutan Ayerktor yang sekarang. Kawasan ini jauh daripada kampung di Pulu, dan tidak akan menyebabkan gangguan pandangan ataupun pengaliran kepada masyarakat di masa pembangunannya ataupun dimasa operasinya yang berterusan.

Department dan Water Corporation sedang bekerjasama untuk memastikan masyarakat diarahkan disedap langkah projek ini.

Official

Official

Gambaran 3D mesin SWRO dan lokasi tempatannya di Sebahagian Lot 100 Sydney Highway, Pulu Panjang

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Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

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Soalan yang sering ditanyak

Mesin Reverse Osmosis Ayer Laot di Pulu Cocos (Keeling), Pulu Panjang

March 2023

Apa itu projek ayer?

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Department) telah mengkontrakkan Water Corporation untuk mengerjakan projek berikunya di Pulu Cocos (Keeling) (CK) Pulu Panjang:

- membangun mesin baru Reverse Osmosis Ayer Laot (SWRO) 200 kiloliter setiap hari (d/hari).

Projek ini juga termasuk aktiviti pemertanian sumber ayer dan pemertanian untuk lobang produksi mesin SWRO, yang telah diselesaikan pada November 2022.

Berapakah ongkos peojek tersebut?

Mesin SWRO ini akan menggantikan mesin SWRO yang sekarang. Sebuah tambahan \$1.2 juta telah ditetapkan untuk kajian design. Department of Defence juga telah menetapkan dua bantuan terhadap projek ini.

Kenapa projek ini dijalankan?

Sumber ayer CK West Island adalah daripada ayer tawar bawah tanah yang berada di bawah operasi pemertanian, ataupun airfield. Pembangunan mesin SWRO akan menggantikan bergantung pada air tawar ini dan memastikan kuantiti ayer untuk masyarakat pada masa hadapan.

Bagaimanakah rupa mesin SWRO kelihatannya?

Mesin SWRO akan mirip mesin ayer yang berada di Home Island sekarang. Water Corporation mempunyai pengalaman lebih 30 tahun dalam menjalankan dan menjaga mesin SWRO Home Island. Oleh kerana kedua-dua mesin ini serupa, alat operasi akan boleh digunakan untuk kedua-dua mesin.

Official

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Dimana mesin SWRO akan ditempatkan?

Mesin SWRO baru ini akan ditempatkan di tanah disamping mesin reusutan ayerktor yang ada sekarang di Lot 100 Sydney Highway, CK Pulu Panjang.

Kawasan ini jauh daripada kampung di Pulu, dan tidak akan menyebabkan gangguan pandangan ataupun pengaliran kepada masyarakat di masa pembangunannya ataupun dimasa operasinya yang berterusan. Rancangan pengaliran trafik akan ditempatkan bila mesin SWRO dibina di dalam kawasan ini.

Siapa yang akan menjalankan projek ini?

Water Corporation akan menjalankan projek ini melalui Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement mereka dengan Kerajaan Australia, melalui department. Water Corporation telah memberikan senarai ayer dan syarikat ke masyarakat CK semenjak 2001.

Bila kerjaan ini akan mulai?

Pada September 2023, kelulusan Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) diterima untuk menjalankan program sumber ayer dan mendidik lobang dipanggil. Program mendidik ini memberikan keterangan mengenai kualiti ayer dan akan membantu memastikan desain terakhir mesin SWRO. Semua kerjaan akan bermula selepas kelulusan PWC, dengan kerjaan pembangunan dipulu untuk bermula pada July 2024. Projek ini akan selesai pada penghujung 2024.

Bagaimana masyarakat akan diberundingkan?

Department dan Water Corporation sedang bekerjasama untuk memastikan masyarakat diarahkan disedap langkah projek ini. Perkara sangat penting ialah penduduk dan pelawis ke Pulu mempunyai akses kepada air minuman yang selamat dan pengurusan rawatan ayerktor yang efektif.

Keterangan dan berita baru mengenai projek ini akan disediakan kepada masyarakat melalui pengeluaran media, buletin masyarakat, surat faks dan di website department. Ada marang, wakil daripada kumpulan projek ini akan berada di CK untuk berunding langsung kepada stakeholder dan membina-membina daripada masyarakat.

Bagaimana saya boleh dapat keterangan selanjutnya?

Kalau anda memerlukan keterangan selanjutnya mengenai mesin SWRO, sila hubungi kumpulan projek ini IT1703-Infrastructure@awc.gov.au

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ANNEX C

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM – ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Community Consultation activities held from 2022 – 2023:

Previous engagement has been undertaken from the Department's Perth office in early 2022. Communication activities undertaken by the Department, included a notice in the local newsletter, *The Atoll*, printed copies of a Fact Sheet and FAQ made available on both CKI West and Home Islands, also translated into Cocos-Malay. Contact has been made with key on-island stakeholders including the Shire, airport and port management regarding the project.

Community Information Forums held between 28 to 31 March 2023:

FORUM	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	INTEREST GROUP
Community Information Forum #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imam Adam Haji (Home Island) Wednesday 29 March 8.15 am – 9:00 am 	2	Community Representative
Community Information Forum #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Island Community Meeting Cyclone Shelter Wednesday 29 March 10:00 am – 11:00 am 	2	Local Resident
Community Information Forum #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands after Council meeting (Home Island) Wednesday 29 March 2:00 pm – 2.30 pm 	8	Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands
Community Information Forum #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toll Airport manager (West Island) Thursday 30 March 8.00 am - 9.0 0am 	2	Airport Manager
Community Information Forum #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Federal Police (West Island) Thursday 30 March 9:30 am - 10.30 am 	1	Australian Federal Police
Community Information Forum #6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Port Manager/Fire Captain (West Island) Thursday 30 March 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm 	1	Port Manager/Fire Services
Community Information Forum #7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Buzz Cocos Resource Centre (West Island) Thursday 30 March 4:00 pm –5:00 pm 	2	Local Resident
Community Information Forum #8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop in session Cocos Resource Centre (West Island) Friday 31 March 9:00 am –10:00 am 	1	Local Resident

ANNEX C

COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM – ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

The Department's consultation team in attendance included members from:

- The Department's Project Delivery Team
- Water Corporation of Western Australia
- Consultant Public Works Advisory Project Management member

ANNEX D

EXAMPLE OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO KEY CKI STAKEHOLDERS

Good afternoon

Further to my earlier email, I would like to provide you with additional information ahead of our meeting on Thursday, 30 March 2023 at 8.00am, being held at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands airport and teleconference.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is proposing to construct and install a new 200 kilolitres per day Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plant (the Project) on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) West Island to secure the community's drinking water supply.

Attached for your information is a Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions providing further information on the project.

The aim of the Project is to establish a new water source for the CKI West Island community, replacing the reliance on the freshwater lens located below the operational airfield. This freshwater lens source is currently the only drinking water for the local community.

The location of the existing water source under the airfield runway is subject to possible contamination through hydrocarbon and chemical spills from airport operations, as well as possible seawater intrusion into the groundwater (freshwater lenses/zone).

The CKI West Island economy is heavily dependent on tourism, which requires a secure freshwater source capability into the future.

The total estimated capital cost of the SWRO plant is \$19.6 million, excluding Goods and Services Tax.

Following referral of the project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC), a public hearing will be held. Further information on the Parliamentary process and hearing is available at [Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au/Parliamentary-Standing-Committee-on-Public-Works)

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Project, the construction works will begin from November 2023 on the mainland where the SWRO plant will be fabricated. On-Island installation works should commence in August 2024 for completion in November 2024.

The project team and I look forward to meeting with you next week.

ANNEX E

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
Letter to Member for Lingiari, and Member for Gippsland	Signed by Minister for Territories and emailed on 21 March 2023
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
CEO Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Email sent 20 March 2023
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ASSOCIATIONS	
Toll, Airport manager	Email sent 20 March 2023
Linx, Port manager	Email sent 20 March 2023
Australian Federal Police on CKI	Email sent 20 March 2023

ANNEX F

SUMMARY OF TOPICS RAISED DURING THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES HELD PROGRESSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT PLANNING STAGE – 2022 – 2023

From February 2022 to March 2023, the Project conducted two community consultation activities on the islands. The purpose of these activities was to keep the community updated on the progress of the Project and to enable the Department to, where possible, incorporate suggestions from the local community, community leaders, local businesses and other key stakeholders into the project's design and delivery methodology. Examples of where this occurred include (but are not limited to):

1. Advice from local businesses and community leaders on how to minimise impacts to the local community (for instance, the planning of works to ensure local business were not interrupted and availability of tourist accommodation) during construction.
2. The consideration of notification to the Airport Manager for any crane works which may impact the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) for the runway for inclusion in the Head Contractor Brief.
3. Introduction of traffic management requirements for the Head Contractor when undertaking works along Sydney Highway for inclusion in the Head Contractor Brief.

ANNEX F

**SUMMARY OF TOPICS RAISED DURING THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
ACTIVITIES HELD PROGRESSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE
PROJECT PLANNING STAGE – 2022 – 2023**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DITDRCA RESPONSE
Will the installation of the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant change the water pressure in town?	Local Resident	No. This is because the water from the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will be connected into the existing Water Storage tanks near the runway. The water will then be distributed from the tanks as it currently is.
Will the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant site be the same size as the existing WWTP site?	Local Resident	Yes, the site for the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will be of a very similar size to the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) site which is approximately 50m x 50m.
What about the Q Station, does this project have any effect on the Q station water supply?	Local Resident	No, the Q Station receives water from its own galleries/bores which are not part of the island public water supply network. The new reverse osmosis plant will be connected into the island public potable water supply network, so it will have no impact on what is existing at the Q Station. The SWRO plant would allow for customers located at the Q Station to apply for a non-standard service connection from Water Corporation.
What happens if the power goes out, how will the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant work? How will we get water on Home Island?	Local Resident	The new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant is on West Island, not Home Island so it will not be connected to the Home Island potable water supply. The Home Island Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant is connected to existing storage tanks which hold a few days' worth of water

		supply. This means water supply remains operational while the power outage is rectified. In the event of a greater emergency where the power may be down for longer than a few days, there are diesel generators connected to the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant to supply power to it. The new West Island Seawater Reverse Island Reverse Osmosis plant will operate in the same way.
Will you need to clear any additional vegetation to run the piping from the new bore field to the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	No, the project will use the existing cleared corridor (easement) along the eastern side of Sydney Highway to install the inground pipework from the bore field to the new reverse osmosis plant.
Will the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Home Island and West Island be upgraded?	Local Resident	The WWTP on Home Island has recently been upgraded. The Department is currently reviewing the requirements for upgrading the WWTP on West Island and will seek advice from Water Corporation during the process.
Is this project linked to the Defence runway project?	Local Resident	That project is separate to this project. However, the proposed Defence works to the runway is an additional driver for the project, as the risk of contamination to the existing freshwater lens is likely to increase as during that project.
Are there any training course opportunities for the Indian Ocean Group Training Association related to the project?	Local Resident	Water Corporation is delivering the project on the Department's behalf, utilising its standard process. This process requires Water Corporation to undertake all technical training to ensure compliance with its service delivery agreement.
Is there an opportunity to connect other island infrastructure into the	Local Resident	Yes, there is the possibility to do this, however, this type of

new water feed line between the new reverse osmosis plant and the existing water storage tanks?		connection is classified as a non-standard service and falls outside of this project scope. If it were to be pursued in the future, the customer would need to make the application to Water Corporation.
Does the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant generate solid waste?	Local Resident	No, the plant generates brine water which is effectively very salty water. Brine is discharged back into the ocean via the existing WWTP seawater outfall pipe.
Where are the bores located for the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	They are located approximately 500m north of the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant just off Sydney Highway.
How will the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant site impact on the existing road?	Local Resident	There is no impact. The project has allowed for a new sealed access and egress road to be constructed into the site which then connects into Sydney Highway, ensuring safe entry and exit to the site. The connection into Sydney Highway will be made good by the Head Contractor.
Can you please reconfirm when the project is due to be completed?	Local Resident	Subject to Parliamentary approval, the project is scheduled for completion in late 2024 with a target date of November 2024.
How many people are you expecting to be on island during construction?	Local Resident	The number of construction personnel is subject to how the Head Contractor intends to undertake the installation works, however, based on similar projects on the mainland and also the previous Home Island Reverse Osmosis plant project is anticipated that the number may be between 6 and 10 at any one time.

Will there be a need for more staff to be employed to operate the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	It is anticipated that the existing Water Corporation resources (14 personnel) will be sufficient to operate the new plant.
How does the project intend to deal with waste?	Local Resident	Water Corporation will make it a requirement of the Head Contractor to minimise all construction waste and, where required, remove all construction waste and return it to the mainland. Fabrication of the SWRO plant will also take place on the mainland, reducing waste generated on island.
What is the proposed future use of the freshwater lens?	Local Resident	The new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will replace the freshwater lens. The use of the freshwater lens for public drinking water supply will be phased out, noting it will be used as a contingency during commissioning.
Do you think the budget is adequate to deliver the project?	Local Resident	The Department's budget has been developed by Water Corporation and reviewed by a qualified Quantity Surveying consultant based on the project design and historical market data. The budget includes a level of contingency based on known project risks and, at this stage in the project life cycle, it is anticipated to be sufficient to deliver the project.
The project appears to be in the path of the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) for the runway, so we will need the project to consider notification to the Airport authority if you are going to use a crane during the project as it may impact the OLS.	Local Resident	Water Corporation will make it a requirement of the Head Contractor by including in the Head Contractor Brief that the Contractor is to undertake consultation with the Airport Authority if it is going to use any equipment which may impact the OLS.

Have you considered that the Defence Runway project is planned to occur and the same time and how will you coordinate with them particularly regarding road movements on Sydney Highway?	Local Resident	The Department and Water Corporation have regular meetings with the Defence Runway project team and through this consultation are seeking to coordinate the works as appropriate. Both projects will require a traffic management plan to be prepared by the construction contractors for approval by the relevant Departments.
Will the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant negate the need for the existing freshwater lens supply and will the water taste better?	Local Resident	The new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will replace the freshwater lens. The use of the freshwater lens for public drinking water supply will be phased out, noting it will be used as a contingency during commissioning of the new plant. The water quality will improve and will meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). In terms of taste, it will be very similar to the water taste on Home Island.
How are you going to ensure that the Construction Contractor complies with local considerations with regards to anti-social behaviour? We have an expectation that any behaviour we believe could be considered anti-social behaviour in the community will likely result in an individual being removed from Island.	Local Resident	The Department is utilising Water Corporation as its Delivery Manager during the construction phase. Water Corporation has a 'Code of Conduct' which includes behaviour references which the Construction Contractor will need to comply with.
Is there a need to increase the electrical supply for the project?	Local Resident	Yes, the project does include an electrical upgrade to the mains power supply. The Department's Indian Ocean Territories Power Services (IOTPS) is proposed to deliver this component of the project and is currently developing the scope of works. IOTPS will coordinate its requirements with Water

		Corporations Seawater Reverse Osmosis project requirements.
Will the existing town water ring main be replaced as part of the project?	Local Resident	No, that is not included in the project scope of work.
What happens if the fire team needs to draw down on the water in the storage tanks for firefighting?	Local Resident	The existing storage tanks will remain, therefore drawing down on the water for firefighting will be as it is done currently, however the reverse osmosis plant will be able to refill the storage tanks in a more efficient manner than the current system. This is because it is a 200 kilolitre system which means it has larger pumps to feed water into the existing storage tanks.
How will the new reverse osmosis plant be constructed?	Local Resident	The construction of the majority of the new plant will be prefabricated on the mainland, after which the prefabricated components will be shipped to island where it will then be installed on site over an anticipated 4 to 5 month period.
Is there a percentage of 'local content' required under the Head Contractor for local subcontractors?	Local Resident	The Department through Water Corporation will encourage the Head Contractor to utilise local subcontractors where possible however there is no minimum percentage local content KPI in the Water Corporation Standard Suite of Contracts.
Is there a way that the Department can reconsider the definition of 'indigenous' under the contract if there is an indigenous participation requirement under the contract as the Cocos Malay people should be considered indigenous?	Local Resident	There is an Indigenous Participation guideline in the Water Corporation Suite of Contracts to be used for the Head Contractor, however the Department is bound by the relevant Australian Government legislation as to the definition of indigenous for this project.
What is the depth of the seawater bores in the bore field?	Local Resident	The depths of the bores vary slightly but they are at an average of 24m.

Will the water main from the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant to the water storage tanks be pressurised?	Local Resident	The water main will only be pressurised when water from the Seawater Reverse Osmosis tanks is being transferred to the water tanks.
What type of pipe is being used for the new water feed line between the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant and the existing water storage tanks?	Local Resident	DN100 PVC.
Will you be chlorinating the water?	Local Resident	Yes, the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant process requires the water to be chlorinated to ensure it complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The water will be required to have a PH level between 6.5 and 8.5.
Will there be a need for more staff to be employed to operate the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	It is anticipated that the existing Water Corporation resources of 14 personnel will be sufficient to operate the new plant.
How long do the filters in the system last?	Local Resident	The carbon filters are replaced approximately every five years and the filter membranes are replaced approximately every three years.
What happens to the wastewater from the Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	The plant generates brine water which is effectively very salty water. Brine is discharged back into the ocean via the existing WWTP seawater outfall pipe.
Is the brine water dangerous to sea life?	Local Resident	Water Corporation has undertaken monitoring of the existing outfall and modelling of the brine discharge as part of the project, with no impact to the marine environment as a result of the project. The outfall pipe which expels the brine approximately 400m offshore and at a depth of 10m will be slightly modified to point upwards at approximately 60 degrees to promote mixing of the brine water with the natural

		seawater and minimise salinity levels at a point source.
What are the expected noise levels from the plant?	Local Resident	The Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant will generate some noise; however, we have taken this into consideration during design. The location of the site is relatively remote from surrounding resident accommodation. In addition, noise attenuation treatment will be used on buildings and plant and equipment to minimise the sound output of the plant. We also consider the Health and Safety of our staff operating the plant so the noise levels generated need to be within specific limits.
Are you considering the use of aluminium fencing for the perimeter of the site?	Local Resident	Yes, we have considered this requirement to meet Whole of Life design requirements.
What is the lighting system be on the new Seawater Reverse Osmosis plant?	Local Resident	The building internal lighting system will be orientated towards the inside of the site and down to minimise light spill outside of the site and this will only be operating when the site needs to be attended at night. The control room for the plant will control site lighting when site is attended at night. There may be some small emergency exit lights on some of the buildings which will need to stay on at night but are green in colour and will emit minimal light outside of the site.