



Shire of Dumbleyung Secures Desal Plant

The State Government has announced that the Shire of Dumbleyung has been successful in securing support to establish a Desalination Plant for Dumbleyung under a WaterSmart Farms Program.

WaterSmart Farms is a \$1.5 million, 3 year WA State Government initiative to test new water supply options for the Wheatbelt, including desalination.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is working with Murdoch University, the Water Corporation, Regional Development Commissions and farmers to test existing Reverse Osmosis systems.

One element of the project was to install 4 demonstration units into Rural Towns to test them under more controlled operating conditions and use by local government, to supplement scheme supplies.

The proposal is for a 2 year trial, with an option for the Shire of Dumbleyung to take possession of the installed system, at the conclusion of the trial.

Dumbleyung was one of three successful sites selected by the State Government to establish trial Desal systems, with the others being Katanning and Merredin.

Shire President Julie Ramm said, *'This is an outstanding outcome for the Shire and community of Dumbleyung'*.

'Water sourcing, storage and preservation is a vitally important issue, particularly given previous year State declared water deficiency emergency situations for our Shire'.

'One of the key outcomes the Shire is looking to target is to try and reduce the existing sub surface water table located throughout the townsite'.

'This project complements the significant focus and funding investment the Shire has made over the last couple of years, particularly relating to new water capture and storage infrastructure'.

'Shire Council has also backed this project by committing additional funds to procure piping and storage tank infrastructure to connect with the desal plant'. 'This funding is intending to leverage further grants funds from the State's Community Water Supply Program'.

'Thanks to our staff member, Dave Williams for his efforts in securing this trial. Dave has been integral in getting projects managed and completed over the past year when we have been short staffed in our Works department. Our sincere thanks to you Dave and we wish you well as you go into retirement (again!)'

Shire CEO Gavin Treasure explained, *'The desal plant is envisaged to be located in the Dumbleyung townsite using an existing production bore to source water'. 'The treated water will then be transferred into tank storage'. 'Brine will also be disposed of in accordance with regulatory requirements'*.

'Current high water levels are considered to have been a major contributor towards key infrastructure deterioration at buildings in and round the swimming pool site'.

'So the project has the potential to not only deliver a new very pure water source, but also mitigate a major sub surface drainage problem being experienced in our township'.

Shire CEO Gavin Treasure participated in a WaterSmart Farms launch held in Kojonup on Friday 30th September in which the announcement was made (pic below).

For further information, contact Julie Ramm, Dumbleyung Shire President on 0429 642 014.