

Government
of South AustraliaDepartment for Infrastructure
and Transport

Northern Water Project Update

Enquiries to [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]@sa.gov.au

**NORTHERN WATER
PROJECT
DELIVERY OFFICE**Level 11, 83 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Kaurna CountryGPO Box 1533
Adelaide SA 5001
DX 171**T** 1300 872 677**W** dit.sa.gov.au

ABN 92 366 288 135

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[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, Nature Positive Regulation, SA & NT
Department for the Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Water
60 King William St Adelaide SA 5000

To: [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au, [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

**NORTHERN WATER PROJECT – EPBC NUMBER 2023/09717 – CHANGE
OF PROPONENT**

I refer to my letter dated 24 March 2025 in which I provided an update on the Northern Water Project (the Project), including the change in responsibility for pre-delivery and procurement of the Project from Infrastructure SA (ISA) to the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). Thank you for the response received from [REDACTED] of your office dated 2 April 2025.

Background

On 6 March 2024, a referral for the Project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (EPBC Act) was published in the name of ISA. Elements of the Project were subsequently declared a Controlled Action in April 2024 (EPBC Number 2023/09717), and the assessment approach determined to be an accredited assessment process.

Following a Machinery of Government change on 1 July 2024, the South Australian Minister for Infrastructure and Transport was made responsible for the Project. As a result, the responsibility for pre-delivery activities and procurement of the Project transferred to DIT.

Change of Proponent

Under section 156F of the EPBC Act, the name of the person originally proposing to take the action can be changed before a decision by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water (the Minister) to approve or not approve the action has been made. As you are aware, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submission under the accredited assessment process has not yet been made.

Given the change in agency responsibility for the Project, we now write to request Ministerial consent to change the person proposing to undertake the action for the Project and the proponent of the Action.

ISA has provided a letter notifying the Minister that it no longer proposes to take the action in addition to no longer being the designated proponent. Refer Attachment A.

Required Information

The information set out in Table 1, below, is provided in accordance with section 156F(3) of the EPBC Act to support this notice of change of person and designated proponent for the proposed action.

Requirement	Detail
Identification Number	EPBC 2023/09717
Brief description/descriptive title for the action	<p>A proposed 260 megalitre per day desalination plant at Cape Hardy on the Spencer Gulf of South Australia, together with approximately 600 km of transfer pipeline to Olympic Dam and associated ancillary infrastructure.</p> <p>The Project Area is approximately 339,928.64 hectares with a Disturbance Footprint of approximately 2,820.55 hectares.</p>
Location of the action	Cape Hardy on the Spencer Gulf in South Australia, to Cowell, Whyalla, Woomera and Roxby Downs, with a lateral pipeline to Carrapateena.
Name and contact details of person who originally proposed to take the action	<p>██████████, formerly Director Approvals and Land Access within the Office of Northern Water Delivery, Infrastructure SA.</p> <p>Designated Proponent – Infrastructure SA</p> <p>██████████, former Director Commercial Projects within the Office of Northern Water Delivery, Infrastructure SA.</p> <p>Contact: ██████████, Chief Executive Infrastructure SA</p> <p>Phone: ██████████</p> <p>Email: ██████████@sa.gov.au</p>
Declaration regarding fee (first person)	ISA were not exempt from paying the fees mentioned in s4.02(2) or otherwise payable under Division 5.6 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Regulations 2000</i> , nor were such fees waived.
Name, Contact Details ACN and ABN of Person now proposing to take the action	<p>Minister for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>c/- Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>ABN 92 366 288 135</p>
Contact Person	<p>██████████</p> <p>Chief Executive, Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>Phone: ██████████</p> <p>Email: ██████████@sa.gov.au</p> <p>Address: 83 Pirie Street, Adelaide</p>
Declaration regarding fee (second person)	DIT would not be exempt from paying the fees mentioned in s4.02(2) or otherwise payable under Division 5.6 of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection Regulations 2000</i> , nor were such fees waived.

Closing

The information included in this letter and attachment is provided for the required changes to be made to both the person proposing to take the action and the designated proponent for the action. Please advise if you require anything further for the changes to take effect.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Yours sincerely



Northern Water Project Lead, Land and Environment

14/05/2025

Attachment A: Letter from Infrastructure South Australia

Ref: B2170339

6 May 2025

[REDACTED]
Assistant Director, Nature Positive Regulations, SA & NT
Department for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

By Email: [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au; [REDACTED]@dcceew.gov.au

Dear [REDACTED]

Request to change of person proposing to take an action – Northern Water Project – EPBC Number 2023/09717 – Change of Proponent

This letter is provided in support of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport's (DIT) notice under section 156F of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) for a change of person proposing to take an action for EPBC Number 2023/09717 for the Northern Water Project (the Project).

At the time of lodgment of the Project's EPBC referral, the designated proponent was Infrastructure SA and the name of the person proposing to take the action was [REDACTED], the former Director, Approvals and Land Access.

Following a Machinery of Government change on 1 July 2024, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport was made responsible for the Project.

As a delegate of Infrastructure SA, please accept this letter as notice that Infrastructure SA are not responsible for undertaking the proposed action and are no longer the appropriate person or proponent in relation to EPBC Number 2023/09717.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
**Chief Executive
Infrastructure SA**