

Media Release 13 September 2011

Second Desalination Plant pumps up Dalby water supplies

State Minister for Water Utilities Stephen Robertson today flicked the switch on Dalby's new \$6.6 million state-of-the-art Stage Two Desalination Plant, bolstering the town's water supply into the future.

Minister Robertson was joined by Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown for the official opening at the Moonie Highway Dalby Water Treatment Plant.

Mayor Brown said the project which is jointly funded by Western Downs Regional Council and the State Government is vital to support the population growth in the region and the burgeoning resources industry, but also to protect the community from future droughts.

"Western Downs Regional Council is serious about building more water infrastructure in the Western Downs and this project will help ensure the town has adequate future water supplies," Cr Brown said.

"In 2004 Dalby became one of the first towns in Australia to pioneer reverse osmosis desalinated groundwater for a large part of the town supply. Since then, in excess of one-third of Dalby's water supply has been successfully catered for by the desalination plant," he said.

"Water is one of our most valuable resources and using innovative technologies such as reverse osmosis to secure long-term drinking water supplies for towns typifies Western Downs Regional Council's commitment to our local communities.

"However the commissioning of the second Dalby reverse osmosis plant does not necessarily mean huge amounts of additional water will be available for the town, as the plant is also partially replacing some of the older shallow bore water supply which does not require treatment."

Cr Brown said in addition to the construction of the second reverse osmosis plant, the project involved the lining and improvement of evaporation ponds and construction of two new 60 metre deep alluvium bores.

He said the latest stage in the upgrade to Dalby's water supply scheme represented the achievement of another key milestone in improving the reliability of the town's treated supply.

"The innovation in the areas of design means we now have an impressive and economical treatment plant that will go a long way toward improving the water security and water quality for the town.

"The plant will now give the town confidence into the future that Council's water infrastructure is capable of providing a reliable supply of water which complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines," Cr Brown said.

"It was a pleasure to have Minister Stephen Robertson in attendance today to open the plant. I would like to thank the State Government for providing funding for this project and also Council staff and the other project partners who made this project possible."

Spokesperson for Utilities – Water, Wastewater and Gas Councillor Bill McCutcheon said the project reflects Council's commitment to invest in urban water infrastructure to provide long-term water security for major centres in the region.

"Council has shown a great deal of initiative in the investment in reverse osmosis technology to supply drinking water," Cr McCutcheon said.

Cr McCutcheon said he was very proud of the project and impressed with the workmanship.

"This is a quality piece of water infrastructure in the Dalby district thanks to the hard work of Council staff and contractors under extremely difficult circumstances after last summer's severe floods and support through the State Government's Water and Sewerage Program," he said.

“Dalby has been well placed over many years being the first supplier of reverse osmosis water to communities and a great credit to our staff, contractors and the former Dalby Town Council in developing this concept, which has now been added on to by Western Downs Regional Council.”

The Stage Two Reverse Osmosis Plant was designed and built by Orica Watercare. Project Management was provided by Parsons Brinckerhoff.

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Photo Caption: Switching on Dalby’s Second Water Desalination Plant: State Minister for Water Utilities Stephen Robertson, Dalby Water Treatment Plant Operator Perry Proud (seated) Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown, Spokesperson for Utilities – Water, Wastewater and Gas Cr Bill McCutcheon, Parsons Brinckerhoff Senior Water and Process Engineer Water Utilities Thomas Mannhardt.

Photo Caption: Second Desalination Plant pumps up Dalby water supply: State Minister for Water Utilities Stephen Robertson and Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown unveil the plaque to officially open the new \$6.6 million Stage Two Desalination Plant at the Dalby Water Treatment Plant on the Moonie Highway.

