

Northern Water Project

Brought to life by SACOME and key to a smart and sustainable future for South Australia.

Northern Water Project

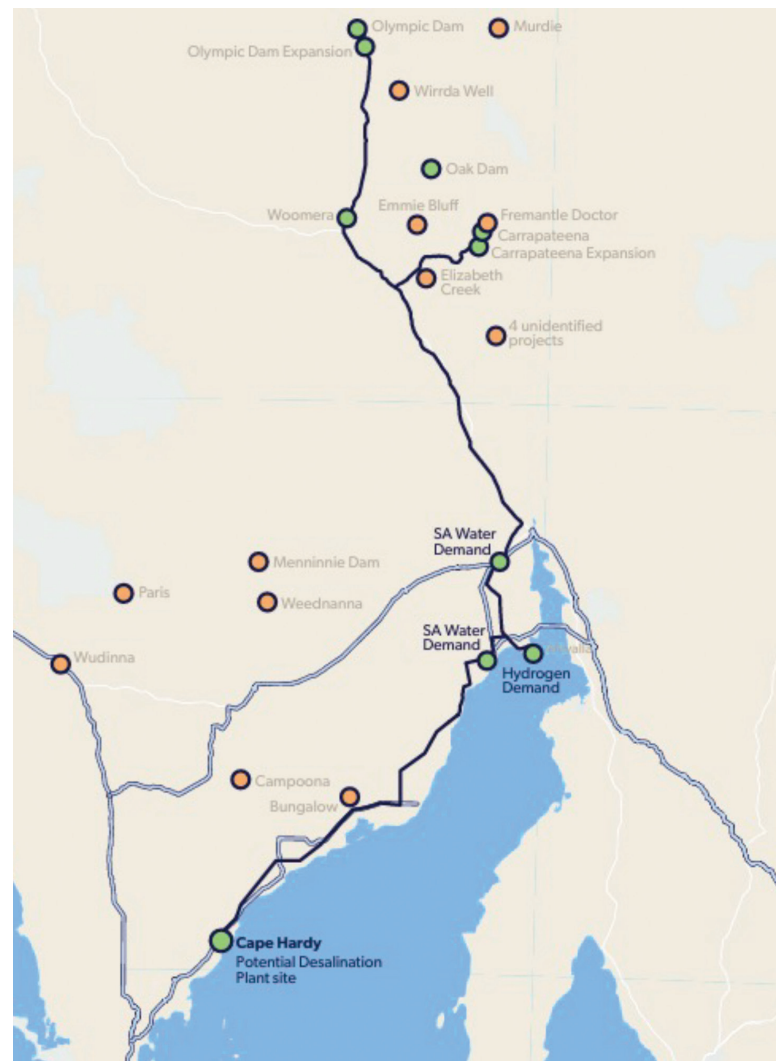
The Northern Water Project is a multi-billion dollar economic development initiative that involves the construction of:

- A new 260 megalitre-a-day desalination plant, in two stages, at Cape Hardy; and
- A 600km pipeline to deliver the water to the Upper Spencer Gulf and northern South Australia – the area of South Australia’s world-class mineral province, the Gawler Craton.

Location

The map on the right indicates the location of the Northern Water Project in South Australia.

Source: Business Case



260ML/day
DESALINATION PLANT &
600km PIPELINE
TO DELIVER WATER TO THE
UPPER SPENCER GULF

Importance

Economic benefit

The Business Case found the Project has the potential to generate more than \$5 billion in annual economic benefit to South Australia, in addition to supporting 800 jobs during construction and 4,200 ongoing jobs.

It is also estimated the State Government would benefit from an additional \$9 billion in royalty payments by 2050.

Industrial benefit

Global demand for copper is expected to double in the next 30 years as the energy transition intensifies and Northern Water could enable a tripling of copper production in the State. The CSIRO estimates approximately 84 litres of water is used to produce one kilogram of copper.

The Project also supports South Australia's plans for new green industries in the Upper Spencer Gulf: green iron, steel, and hydrogen production, including the construction of the world's largest hydrogen power plant by early 2026.

It has the potential to support defence and space activity at Woomera.

Environmental benefit

Industries operating in the Upper Spencer Gulf and northern South Australia currently rely on the River Murray and the Great Artesian Basin for their water needs. The delivery of sustainable water will significantly reduce these industrial pressures on the River and the Basin.

POTENTIAL TO GENERATE
\$5 billion
ECONOMIC BENEFIT
FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

State Government support

The Project has attracted bipartisan support.

Announced in February 2024, the Malinauskas Government, together with BHP, Origin Energy, Amp Energy and Fortescue Energy, are all contributing to the pre-FID costs of approximately \$200-\$230 million.

This follows funding from the Marshall and Morrison Governments for the Business Case.

SACOME supports the ongoing involvement of the Government to ensure that this strategic infrastructure project benefits multiple stakeholders and communities.

SACOME's call

To ensure all stakeholders are properly briefed as to the Project's importance for both our sector and our State, well in advance of the Federal Election and FID.

Final investment decision

Premier Malinauskas has stated that FID is due in the first half of 2026.

Projected completion

The first water would be delivered by 2029.

