



Let's talk about...

Wellington East Water Supply



Coorong District Council owns and operates the non-drinking river water supply system which services a portion of properties located in the Wellington East township.

This water supply provides users with non-drinking river water, through a Council owned and managed system which currently services 212 properties. Over the past 12 months, Council has been working with SA Water to investigate the opportunity to convert the non-drinking water scheme to an SA Water owned and operated drinking water scheme. Council has now identified a viable approach for a potential conversion, including what would be required to bring the water supply up to drinking water standards.

Before commencing a detailed investigation, the Council is now seeking input from current customers on a proposal to convert the current non-drinking system to a drinking water system.

Council is proposing that the current water supply is converted to a fully resourced, owned and operated system by SA Water. This would require the construction of new infrastructure, including a connection from the pipeline located on the Princes Highway to Council's existing pump station, along with upgrades to existing connections on Council's current scheme.

With the conversion, properties located within the proposed service area (see map on page 5) would receive safe, clean, drinking water.

To progress this proposal, current customers are being asked to review the following information to gain an understanding of the impacts the proposed transition may have.



The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) oversees the pricing of licensed water service operations in South Australia.

With the existing water supply system Council is required to adopt a 100% cost recovery model for essential services. This means that the customers of the Wellington East water supply will be required to pay a fee that covers all costs associated with providing a non-drinking water supply. These costs include operations, depreciation, capital renewal and risk.

100% cost recovery model

The current charging structure for the Wellington East water supply system is estimated to cover approximately 44% of its expense associated with its operation.

To achieve full cost recovery and compliance with ESCOSA requirements, Council expects that the average annual water supply fees will rise to \$776.48 per serviced property.

The **proposed potable SA Water system** will have the following:

Advantages

- Reliable drinking water quality
- System reliability
- Constant pressure
- Increased development opportunities
- System expansion opportunities
- Reduced costs of drinking water supply
- Convenience of household access to safe and reliable drinking water

Disadvantages

- Costs to Council and the community to provide the infrastructure.
- Service interruption during construction

Costs

Based on SA Water’s 2023/24 pricing schedule, residential water prices under an SA Water owned and operated water system are shown in Table 1. This will potentially see the proposed system being offered at a lower rate (\$689.31)

compared to Council’s existing system (\$776.48).

Table 1: SA Water 23/24 Pricing Schedule

Annual Supply Charge	\$296.80
Tier 1 – Water Use Price per litre \$0.002126 Daily Threshold 0 to 383.6L	\$2.126/kL
Tier 2 - Water Use Price per litre \$0.003035 Daily Threshold 383.6L to 1424.7L	\$3.035/kL
Tier 3 - Water Use Price per litre \$0.003035 Daily Threshold 383.6L to 1424.7L	\$3.288/kL
Average Annual Fee (based on average water usage of 171KL) \$296.80+(140 kL x \$2.126) + (31kL x \$3.035)	\$689.31

Source:

https://www.sawater.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/732755/2023-24-rates-and-sales.pdf

By remaining with the **existing Council provided non-drinking water system**, individual property owners will have their average annual water supply costs of \$337.60 rise to an estimated \$776.48.

Maintaining the current non-drinking water supply has the following:

Advantages

- Lower infrastructure investment
- No construction interruption

Disadvantages

- Not drinkable
- Inconsistent pressure
- Susceptible to impact by natural events
- Constraints to expanding the system.

Costs

Average annual water supply costs of \$337.60, will rise to \$776.48 as required by ESCOSA.



Consultation and Engagement Participation

Council is encouraging members of the Wellington East community to consider the proposal and participate in Council’s community consultation process. Property owners can:

- **Attend a Community Engagement session** – where you can learn more from Council’s Capital Projects Manager and SA Water representatives about the proposed upgrade.
- **Thursday, 18 January 2024** at 6pm
at the Wellington Hall, 3444 Jervois Road Wellington, SA 5259
- **Wednesday, 24 January 2024** at 6pm
Webinar and in person at the
Coorong District Council Chambers,
95-101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend SA 5253
To join the online webinar, please scan the QR Code
- **Provide your feedback** via the online feedback form
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WEWater>
- **Visit Council’s Website** for more information and a detailed FAQ sheet
<https://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/stay-informed/community-engagement>
- **Speak with an expert:** James Clarke, Capital Projects Manager – 1300 785 277



Project Timelines

Following stage one of community engagement, a report will be completed and presented at the February Ordinary Council Meeting. This report will feature the community’s feedback and thoughts on the proposal, which will then be used to help guide Council’s decision making.

Stage	Activity	Timelines
Stage 1	Community Engagement	18 Dec 2023 to Feb 2024
	Findings report completed and presented to at the 20 February 2024 Ordinary Council meeting	March 2024
	Community advised of outcomes	April 2024
	Project scope –design and funding model developed	May to Jun/Jul 2024
Stage 2	Community Engagement Community Informed of design and funding model and project delivery timelines	Jul/Aug to Oct 2024



The Wellington East Water Supply project directly relates to properties contained within the highlighted area in the map above.

Properties outside of this area at this stage will not be able to access the proposed SA Water Supply, however the system will have the capacity for future expansion.



We value you're your opinion.

On the Wellington East Water Supply

Feedback Form

1. Name: _____
2. Email address: _____
3. Postal address: _____
4. Are you a Wellington East resident connected to the current non-potable water supply system?
 Yes No
5. Do you support the proposal to transition to an SA Water potable water system?
 Yes No
6. If yes, can you indicate the benefits you place as a high priority?

<input type="checkbox"/> High quality drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/> Constant supply pressure
<input type="checkbox"/> System reliability	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduced need for bottled water
<input type="checkbox"/> Value for money service	<input type="checkbox"/> Convenient drinking water
<input type="checkbox"/> Increased property values	<input type="checkbox"/> System expansion opportunities

7. If no, can you please provide explanation of decision?

8. Please indicate whether you wish for your submission to remain anonymous:

Please note that submissions may be included in a publicly available report to Council which will display your name only (no contact details), unless you wish to remain anonymous.

Yes No

Thank you for providing your feedback. Please return your submission to Coorong District Council via any of the following methods:

In person: Coorong Civic Centre, 95-101 Railway Terrace, Tailem Bend
Tintinara Customer Service Centre, 37 Becker Terrace, Tintinara
Meningie Information Hub, 49 Princes Highway, Meningie

By email: council@coorong.sa.gov.au

By post: PO Box 399, Tailem Bend SA 5260

Community engagement closes at 9:00am on Monday, 5 February 2024.

Consultation and Engagement Process & Timelines

Stage	Activity	Timelines
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