

Marion Water

A plan for securing
our future water
2023 - 2026

CITY OF

MARION



Message from the Mayor

The Marion Water business is a major investment for the City of Marion. We will help meet the water needs of our community and many others in the southern region of metropolitan Adelaide.

With assistance from Federal and State Governments, this multimillion-dollar project – mostly funded by council – will more than double the existing 11.5km pipeline network of water supply pipes spreading out from the Oaklands Wetlands.

The facilities and wetlands were built a decade ago after the Millennium drought. For years, we have collected, treated and stored rainwater to irrigate dozens of our reserves and sporting facilities when needed. Better than using precious drinking water!

The operation has been good value for our community. Upgrading the capacity for water supply from the wetlands is a financially viable means of helping to drought proof our region. The 14km extension of pipelines, under the guidance of our new Marion Water business unit, means we can pipe water to the eastern side of South Road and down south as far as Lonsdale Highway; possibly further in the future. We have customers lining up to buy our water.



Mayor Kris Hanna



Marion Water is a business unit within council that aims to deliver a holistic range of water-based services to our residents and businesses. The Marion Water Plan aims to provide strategic context around the establishment of Marion Water. Marion Water is not a profit making entity but exists to provide water services to our residents and customer.

The plan aims to deliver the priorities of the Marion Community Vision and sits within the City of Marion Strategic Management Framework. It has been developed to support the planned expansion of the Oaklands Stormwater Reuse Scheme, but also to manage the entire suite of water resources across our city, whilst developing a professional, self-sustaining, full cost recovery, regulated water business.

On 8 December 2009, Council considered a report which endorsed the concept for a wetland and aquifer storage recharge scheme to be developed on the land that is occupied by Oaklands Wetland and Reserve.

The project also included the development of a distribution network from the wetland to a number of council owned reserves and sporting facilities near the wetland that would be irrigated using recycled stormwater.

Oaklands Wetland can capture and treat 400ML per year. Additional infrastructure can be added to increase the capacity. Currently the demand for water from Oaklands is between 100-120ML per year.

The project is now at the stage where current grant funding enabled the extension of the project and the creation of Marion Water.

Vision statement

To develop the Marion Water business into a self-sustaining, full cost recovery, non-subsidised business, that delivers environmental, financial, social and recreational benefits to the community.

Council has resolved that the water business should be:

- financially self-sufficient, recovering all costs, including renewal, with one price for all customers
- providing recycled water at agreed volumes and quality, and at a cost that is sustainable
- a highly regulated business unit within council, with strong governance.

Priority statement and guiding principles

Servicing our own water demands within the City of Marion first where it is economically viable to do so, and then seek to supply surplus water to third parties, at no cost to our ratepayers.

Guiding principles

- Service our own demands first, then seek to sell water to third parties.
- Avoid use of potable water for irrigation and other uses not requiring potable water.
- Avoid reliance on water supplied from the Adelaide Desalination Plant and the River Murray.
- Maximise opportunities to retain stormwater onsite for reuse such as rainwater tanks on developments, or, when not possible, seek to use treated stormwater from Oaklands Wetlands.
- Avoid discharges of stormwater that may exacerbate flood risk.
- Develop a best practice business to which other local governments look to for guidance on the management of recycled water.
- Ensure water access and use is equitable and extraction is within legal and fair entitlements.
- Continue to measure and report on water quality for injected water and ensure water quality is fit for purpose.
- Ensure water is used to meet the needs of the City of Marion community and support delivery of the community vision.
- Ensure operations of Marion Water meets legislative requirement and council's best practice standards.

Objectives

Five objectives have been developed to guide the water business to achieve the vision and guiding principles.

Objective one

Deliver social and environmental benefit to the community

Provide a non-potable, fit for purpose water supply to green and cool our environment and for irrigating our street trees. Marion Water will provide drought proof, high security water supplies.

Objective two

Drive the economic performance of the business

The ongoing operation of the water business needs to be financially sustainable. Future capital contributions require a clear business case linked to an overall strategy and vision of the business.

Objective three

Pursue sustainable business growth

By delivering in excess of 250ML per annum (current supply is less than 120ML per annum).

Objective four

Maintain sound risk management and governance

The water business will be managed by an empowered team that operates with a strong guiding strategy, and tight governance structure.

Objective five

Seek to deliver innovative solutions

Marion Water will continue to seek innovative ideals and maximise potential of the emerging Water Allocation Plan.



Marion Water four-year action plan - Proposed expansions to the water reuse scheme

2023

A large expansion to City of Marion’s existing water reuse scheme has been approved by Council.

Seacliff and Flinders Link extension project

The pipeline extensions to Seacliff Park, and Flinders University and nearby sporting fields will use recycled water, primarily for the greening of public land. Community consultation indicated strong support for this project.

The project will increase total recycled water demand by up to 140 ML per year. This displaces 140ML per annum of existing potable water supplied by SA Water. Federal and State Government grant opportunities made this project viable.

River Murray flows will benefit from this extension as State Government has returned an extraction licence equal to the average annual volume of water used in this project to substitute existing potable supplies.

2024

Water Allocation Plan

The Water Allocation Plan for Central Adelaide may offer future opportunities, such as water trading, banking and roll-over credits.

A new permanent water license issued by the Department of Environment and Water will provide opportunities for Marion Water to expand and consolidate its operations. Improved management of our ground water infrastructure will deliver pressure, flow and water quality benefits to our customers.

The responsibility for native groundwater management will fall under the control of Marion Water. Blending native groundwater with treated stormwater from Oaklands Wetland will provide some additional exciting opportunities for the City of Marion.

A Mid-term review is proposed at the end of 2024 to reset the priorities and objective of Marion Water.

2025

Centralised water treatment

Further treatment of our recycled stormwater to improve water quality would expand supply. Treated water could be used inside buildings for toilets flushing, washing machines and hot water supply.

2026

Oaklands Green and Seacliff Park development

The Oaklands Green development is an urban renewal project, located near Oaklands Wetland. It represents an opportunity for significant recycled water demand from the reuse scheme. The project will deliver treated recycled water to 665 homes over the ten years. The Seacliff/ Villawood, Morphettville Racecourse and Tonsley precinct developments are other exciting opportunities in Marion that may use water sourced from Oakland Wetlands.

The demand for recycled water could reach up 40 ML per annum per development.

Future Projects

Projects at scoping stage and unfunded.

Other projects are being considered through discussions with developers and Local, State and Federal Governments regarding long term water security and future funding opportunities.

Sturt Gorge Dam

There is the potential to extract water from the Sturt River, upstream of the Sturt Gorge Dam in Craighburn Farm. Extracted water could be used to irrigate local ovals, golf clubs, schools and Glenthorne Farm nature playgrounds. A preliminary design for a distribution network, and preliminary costs estimates have been completed. Future grant opportunities will be explored along with project partners to make this concept economically viable for Marion Water. This project is on the unfunded initiatives list for Council.

System integration

There is the potential for the interconnection of schemes such as Oaklands Wetland with other water reuse schemes, to move water around Adelaide to meet areas of high demand. SA Water are leading on this with the Resilient Water Futures Project, with Marion Water being one of many project partners.

Roadmap

