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22nd November 2023

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Energy and Mining
Member for West Torrens
08 7133 1100
Minister.koutsantonis@sa.gov.au

Tailem Bend – Keith – Bordertown Pipeline

Dear Minister Koutsantonis,

On behalf of the Murray Darling Association (MDA), I am writing to commend that the South Australian Government support and invest in the extending the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown to meet domestic water use requirements.

At our 79th National Conference earlier this year, our membership identified support and investment to extend the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown to meet domestic water use requirements.

Members have noted that this support and investment would guarantee water for human needs, domestic, business, and light industry use in the Bordertown township serving a population of 3000 to be taken from the existing SA Water country towns allocation and would not be for irrigation or agricultural production.

The existing Bordertown water supply from six groundwater bores needs to be improved due to ongoing climate variability and reduced rainfall, reducing recharge, and replenishing the freshwater lens that supplies the town. The most reliable alternative water supply solution is an extension of the River Murray Tailem Bend to Keith pipeline, which currently terminates in the Brimbago and Cannawigara localities.

The estimated cost is \$43 million.

Ongoing water security for Bordertown is at risk due to declining recharge to the freshwater groundwater lens, which is the current town water supply. Providing this water security solution for Bordertown will match high-value River Murray water to essential human requirements.

Based on modelling, more reliable and good quality water will be required to supply this community's domestic, business, and industrial use and will restrict ongoing growth.



Long-term reduced rainfall and flow in Tatiara Creek since the mid-1990s is decreasing the extent of recharge to the freshwater lens and increasing salinity levels. The aquifer supplying Bordertown water supply is not replenishing at a rate sufficient to respond to current and future demand levels.

Members are concerned that the Bordertown township's domestic, business, and industrial water supply may soon decline below the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards for human consumption, while the extension of the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown will match high-value River Murray water to essential human requirements.

In your capacity as the South Australian Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, could you please advise what intentions the South Australian Government has to support and invest in the extending the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown to meet domestic water use requirements?

The Murray Darling Association has also reached out to the Deputy Premier Hon Susan Close MP regarding extending the SA Water Mains Pipeline from Tailem Bend – Keith onto Bordertown.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or our National President, Mayor Craig Davies should you wish to discuss the Tailem Bend – Keith – Bordertown Pipeline, or require further information.

Yours faithfully,



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