

Hon Ian Hunter MP

Minister for Water and the River Murray

Hon Geoff Brock MP

Minister for Regional Development

Sunday 2 April 2017

\$3.18 million State Government commitment to Bundaleer Reservoir water

A \$3.18 million commitment from the Regional Development Fund announced today backs the State Government's commitment to making water available for agricultural use from the Bundaleer Reservoir.

The Bundaleer Pipeline Scheme will provide an affordable source of water to industry around the Bundaleer Reservoir through a 12 kilometre pipeline network and other related infrastructure.

Once fully developed, the Scheme will provide up to 25 full time direct jobs, and generate estimated annual revenue of around \$4.6 million in the region.

The State Government has also applied to the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) for matched funding, which is expected to be announced in mid-2017.

Today's funding announcement was made at a public forum in Port Pirie as part of Country Cabinet Port Pirie, Yorke and Mid North.

Background

Ongoing community interest in using water for agriculture from the Northern Reservoirs – Baroota, Beetaloo and Bundaleer – has led the State Government to explore potential opportunities.

Consultation with the local community identified the opportunity to develop new infrastructure to deliver up to 275 megalitres of water a year from the Bundaleer Reservoir to meet local agricultural demand.

Supplying water from Beetaloo Reservoir to meet the identified industry demand would not be possible at an affordable price, so SA Water will work with interested customers to explore other ways to meet their water needs.

The consultation revealed insufficient demand for the water that is available from Baroota Reservoir beyond the existing horticultural uses.

Construction of the Bundaleer pipeline scheme will begin by the end of the year pending Federal Government funding.

Water will be supplied and delivered through the scheme to the farm gate, with on-farm delivery, on-farm storage, treatment and monitoring of this water the responsibility of the end user.

This initiative supports the State Government's economic priority of 'premium food and wine produced in our clean environment and exported to the world'.

Quotes attributable to Water and the River Murray Minister Ian Hunter

South Australia's Mid North is a prime agricultural region with an abundance of suitable land for further development, where water is available.

The State Government has investigated opportunities for the use of several offline reservoirs where environmentally appropriate and when supported by the local community.

The use of water from the Bundaleer Reservoir for agricultural purposes will still allow the community to access the reservoir for recreational fishing, which is expected to be available in the next few months.

Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

The Bundaleer Reservoir is located in a corridor of high value agricultural production running from Two Wells to Whyalla.

The scheme will help drive economic growth in the Mid North by accelerating and expanding high quality food production, creating jobs and encouraging on-farm investment.

The availability of this new water for local agricultural production can drive the expansion, diversification and viability of intensive feedlots and broadacre production in the Mid North.

Media Contact: Richard Lower 0419 838 646 | Tanalee Smith 0408 377 584