

Exmouth water source planning

Project update - December 2025

What is happening?

Exmouth is expected to require up to an additional **1.5 billion litres** of drinking water to secure the water supply to 2060.

Earlier this year, we announced **seawater desalination** as the preferred new drinking water source for Exmouth, which would be delivered in stages to meet current and projected future demand. This decision followed extensive investigations into how best to secure the town's water supply for decades to come.

What's happening now?

We've assessed a range of factors to help guide the selection of a preferred location for the proposed seawater desalination plant. The sites being considered are shown over the page.

We've completed several studies across the three sites and marine investigations are ongoing.

Our studies on local habitats and activities in the area help us design infrastructure that works with the environment and reduces potential impacts. Completed studies include:

- water quality monitoring, mapping seabed habitats and detecting freshwater seeps (areas where underground freshwater from the land emerges from the seabed)
- investigations into natural water movement in the Exmouth Gulf and how brine would mix into the surrounding environment
- flora and fauna surveys, including detailed subterranean fauna surveys (a scientific study to identify small fauna that live below the ground)
- Aboriginal Heritage surveys
- review of fishing and prawning areas and vessel movements in the Exmouth Gulf
- review of land use, future town planning and social considerations
- flood modelling, coastal risk assessment and technical site considerations.

What are the next steps?

We're working to complete our review of possible sites by the end of the year. In early 2026, we'll share the results with you and confirm the preferred location for the proposed seawater desalination plant.

We'll continue the marine environmental investigations. We're also planning further environmental and technical assessments, including offshore geophysical and geotechnical surveys supported by an underwater noise modelling assessment. These studies will help guide the infrastructure design and support our environmental approval submissions.

We'll also be working with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in partnership with the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on the planning process for the proposed Exmouth Gulf Marine Park, to include consideration of the proposed desalination plant.

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We'll continue to work with stakeholders and the community as we progress this priority project for the Exmouth community.

How can I be involved?

We are committed to keeping the local community updated and providing opportunities for feedback.

You can sign up for project updates by searching "Exmouth water source planning" in your preferred browser or scan the QR code.



If you have questions or comments, please contact our team at Community.Engagement@watercorporation.com.au

Faults, emergencies and security – 13 13 75 (24 hours).

Seawater desalination investigation areas

