

# Exmouth water source planning

## Marine investigations fact sheet – December 2024

With the impact of climate change and population growth, and the focus on protecting the environmental values of the region, we are investigating options for a new water source for Exmouth. This is to supplement existing groundwater supply so we can plan for a secure and sustainable water supply for the future.

With a growing population, it's estimated Exmouth will need an extra 1 billion litres per annum delivered in stages to meet projected demand into the 2050s.

### What water source options are being considered?

- Groundwater expansion further south of Exmouth.
- A local seawater desalination plant.

### What is happening?

We will soon be commencing marine investigations in Exmouth Gulf. These investigations will help us gather information to identify a preferred location for a potential Exmouth Seawater Desalination Plant (SDP) intake and outfall, understand the operating risks of the proposed location and to inform an environmental impact assessment. Additionally, the water quality data will inform potential treatment processes required for a proposed SDP.

The investigations involve:

- Water quality sampling (at least 12 months)
- Water quality vertical profiles (24 months)
- Continuous water quality monitoring using submerged loggers (24 months)
- Current and wave data collection (6 months)
- Benthic habitat characterisation/mapping (at least one survey)
- Freshwater seep identification and characterisation (at least one survey)

### When?

Work will begin in December 2024. Further sampling and data collection will take place on a quarterly basis for up to 24 months, with some potential event-based sampling following certain weather or environmental events.

### How will this work impact the community?

Our consultants will use a boat to collect water samples at four sites, listed below and shown on the map on page three. They will also be installing temporary underwater data loggers near the seabed at each site, at a depth of around 5-6 meters Mean Sea Level. The logger installations have been agreed with the Department of Transport and should not interfere with vessel movements in Exmouth Gulf. More information is available via the Department's Temporary Notice to Mariners. They will remain in place for up to 24 months.

SDP site options (see page three for map):

- Northern option
- Marina alternate brine outfall option
- Central option
- Southern option

## Future marine activities

As mentioned above, further water sampling and data collection will take place on a quarterly basis for a period of about 24 months including diving activity to maintain the monitoring equipment.

## How can I get involved?

The results of these studies, in conjunction with stakeholder feedback, will be used to assess the viability of a potential SDP in Exmouth and to determine the optimal design and location of any proposed infrastructure.

A preliminary design will then be developed and additional consultation with stakeholders will occur prior to any environmental referral.

We welcome feedback, including any initial comments or concerns, from commercial and recreational fishers that operate in the area, as well as any industry and community groups with an interest in the area.

## Who can I contact?



For general enquiries or to register for updates about this project, please contact Specialist Community Engagement, Carina Harris, via (08) 9420 2278 or [Carina.Harris@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:Carina.Harris@watercorporation.com.au).



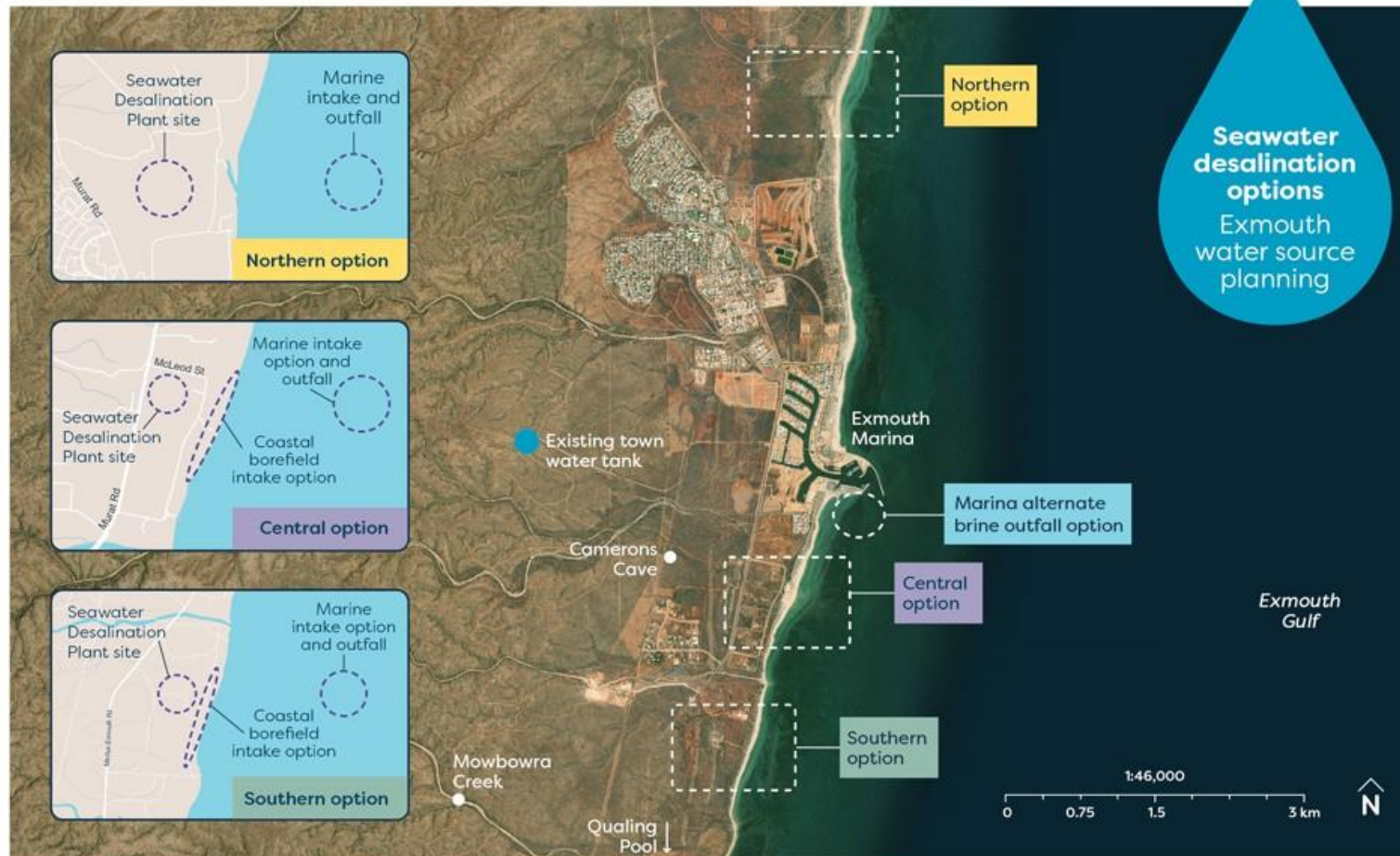
For more information about the project search “Exmouth water source planning” in your preferred browser.

**For faults, emergencies and security issues please call us on 13 13 75**

# Exmouth water source planning

Marine investigations fact sheet – December 2024

Map of survey area



December 2024

# 184490197