Meeting 4 Notes

PROJECT:	Future Water Source Community Consultation Group
CLIENT:	Water Corporation
DATE:	November 2025
VERSION:	0.1

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Contents

1 Introduction

As part of exploring new water sources for the Lower Great Southern Towns Water Supply Scheme, the Water Corporation (the Corporation) has formed a Community Consultation Group (CCG). The expression of interest form set the purpose of this group as:

> "Consult with a diverse mix of community members to better understand the decision-making process the Water Corporation is undertaking for its future water source planning in the Great Southern Region. This will include consulting on potential sites for a seawater desalination plant in Albany."[1]

A series of meetings have been scheduled for 2025 and 2026. The fourth meeting was held on 5th November 2025 at the Water Corporation Offices in Albany from 5:00pm to 7:30pm.

The participants at the meeting can be found in Appendix One of this report.

The meeting covered four key topics:

1. Checking in on what CCG members are hearing
2. Providing updates on the investigations that are underway/planned
3. Exploring the Social Sub-Criteria for the Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA)
4. Providing updates on shore crossing studies being conducted

What follows are the core discussion points from this meeting.

[1] Water Corporation: Lower Great Southern new water source investigations. Expression of Interest - Community Consultation Group March 2025.

2 Group Purpose and Agreements

The terms of reference define the group's purposes in the following way.

The **Albany Community Consultation Group (CCG)** is a place where community members and the Water Corporation can talk about future water plans for the Lower Great Southern Region.

CCG objectives

- Help obtain the views of members on the various options available to the Water Corporation
- Suggest ways to engage with the local community
- Offer advice to the Water Corporation on how issues or concerns may be addressed

Decision-making

The CCG doesn't make decisions; it is a forum for sharing information.

2.1 Agreements

Further to the code of conduct established as part of the CCG's terms of reference, the group discussed its own agreements that would contribute to robust, constructive, and productive delivery of the group's purpose.

- Respect
  - Not talking over other people
  - Making space for others to express their views (kindness)
  - Provide time for people to be able to respond
  - Make eye contact with people
- Be curious
  - Ask "what does it look like?" if you hear different views
  - Take the time to be clear about what the other is saying
- Work together
  - Working to a shared goal
  - Draw on each other's strengths
  - Be solution focused
  - Bring passion in a way others can receive
- Trust
  - Share with openness
  - Encourage two-way conversations

3 What are CCG Members hearing?

The meeting opened with a 'check in' to see what CCG members are hearing from around the wider community

- One CCG member suggested that for the most part (60-70%) of the community are not that concerned about where their water supply comes from
  - It was suggested that as CCG members, they have the ability to educate their peers about what they've learned in the CCG
- There was a clear community preference for Sandpatch
- They have a seen a stall at Lower King General Store with information not supporting a desalination plant at Nanarup
- Disappointment from one member who read local news story online with incorrect information about marine impacts from brine
- The CCG are seeing a gap between the information they are getting and the broader community understanding
  - CCG want to see better engagement and promotion of events to the wider community
  - There is not a strong understanding about how brine dispersion works
  - There is not a strong understanding about the low feasibility of brine recycling (as covered in meeting 3)
  - Community wants to see the data before decisions are made
- There is a gap between how the Minister for Water is describing the role of the CCG (ie: framing the CCG as a decision-making body) – leaving the members concerned that they are being set up
  - The CCG wants the Corporation to do more to clarify the role of the CCG as advisory only and that site location was one of the non-negotiables.

4 Investigations Update

The Corporation provided an update on the current and proposed investigations and overall project timelines.

Date	Activity/Milestone
Underway/ upcoming	• Zero Liquid Discharge study • Groundwater modelling (Manypeaks) • Shore crossing and marine works study • South Coast subsurface intake study • Ecotoxicology study Phase 1 (desktop) • Brine dispersion modelling and preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment • Flora and fauna surveys • Drone survey • Land discussions

Date	Activity/Milestone
Late 2025	Completed Multi-Criteria Assessment on both sites.
Future	Timing of below studies may be before or after location selected: • Heritage surveys • Geotechnical study – terrestrial and marine • Coastal hazards and inundation • Metocean and marine water quality monitoring • Bathymetric surveys
Early 2026	Preferred site announced
2030	New source required for the Lower Great Southern

CCG Comments

- Community would like to see the brine discharge studies for both sites
    - The Corporation confirmed that this level of detail is only conducted on a preferred site

- Why are regional level models developed if the brine dispersion happens within tens of meters?
    - The regional level model is built from the existing data and is used to confirm and test water flows across the coast.
    - The consultants use existing data from many global and regional sources to incorporate the main drivers to the regional model, including things such as wind speeds, air pressure, waves, outflows and key climate drivers such as El Nino and La Nina. Climate drivers such as El Nino and La Nina have a significant impact within the model due the direct impact it has on the of the Leeuwin current.
    - It is important to include all this data into regional models as it will accurately inform, at a very small scale, how quickly a brine discharge near Albany will disperse and dilute into the ocean.
    - Once the regional model is built and validated, brine dispersion modelling is undertaken at much finer scales down to metres.
    - Models are also used to validate predicted behaviour of the brine, after construction, to confirm that the brine is dispersed as expected.
    - With this regional level model in place, it allows the Corporation to 'test' impact on a specific site (eg: will brine end up in King George Sound? – past experience in other sites say it won't but the modelling will confirm this)
    - Preliminary outputs from the modelling are expected to be available by the end of the month

- What stops the plant from growing beyond 6GL capacity?
    - The current plan is to build a 3GL/year production capacity seawater desalination plant with the ability to scale to 6GL/year.

    - As a result, there will be restrictions on key infrastructure, such as the size of the intake pipeline, that limit production capacity to 6GL/year.
    - Further planning will be undertaken to determine future water sources for Albany beyond 6GL/year, keeping in mind that groundwater will continue to supply Albany in addition to the desalination plant.

- Additional information provided by Water Corporation following the meeting:
    - Forecast demand is 7GL/year by 2050 (which includes 0.25GL supply to Denmark to supplement local sources).
    - Current groundwater licence allocation is 4.85GL/year and licence to abstract provisionally 0.4 GL/year from Angove River.
    - Groundwater and Angove River sources are rainfall dependent, and the allocations are expected to reduce in the future with declining rainfall. Even with an approximate 50% reduction to 2.5GL/year, there is source capacity of 8.5GL/year which is not expected to well beyond 2050.

5 Multi-criteria Assessment

The Corporation recapped on the Multi-criteria Assessment categories and process that is used for site selection.

- There are six over-arching categories are Social, Technical, Delivery & Operation, Economic, Environmental, Regulatory and Approvals
- Each category is weighted equally (16.7%)
- Options are scored (1-5) by the project team against criteria under each category.
  1 – Significant negative impact
  2 – Moderate negative impact
  3 – Neutral
  4 – Moderate positive
  5 – Strong positive
- Each criterion has a weighting, based on level of importance

Multi Criteria Assessment

Social	Technical	Delivery and operations	Economic	Environmental	Regulatory and Approvals
Local community sentiment	Feed Quality	Operability	Whole of Life Cost	Pressure of natural water sources	Environmental and regulatory approvals
Customer sentiment	Supply Quality	Treatment Process	Capital expenditure	Ecological Impacts	Time to prepare approvals
Place based impacts - Short term	Scheme Impacts	Constructability	Operational Expenditure	Environmental impact of construction	Time to obtain approvals
Place based impacts - Long term	Scope 1 & 2 Greenhouse Emissions	Time	Investment Confidence	Environmental impact of operation	Department of Health
Liveability Impacts	Scope 3 Greenhouse Emissions	Service Reliability	Cost per volume	Clearing offsets	Land Tenure
Aboriginal Heritage Cultural values		Resilience to Climate Change	Local economy benefit		Acceptance by other government agencies
Political Priorities		Adaptability			Acceptance by financing decision maker
		Safety			

CCG asked if there is any community input into the weighting of the different categories and criteria.

- No direct input into the weighting of each category
- CCG is being asked to input into the assessment of the Social category criteria

5.1 Social Category- Sub Criteria

The following table was provided to the CCG for their review.

Criteria	Definition	Considerations
Local community sentiment	Sentiment of the immediate local community that would be directly affected by construction and/or operation.	**Nanarup:** There have been concerns raised by some members of the immediate local community in the Nanarup area, with a general preference expressed for limiting infrastructure development in this area. Key issues raised include brine disposal and its perceived impact on marine life, potential loss of flora and fauna due to vegetation clearing, the scale and visual impact of the proposed plant, and implications for beach access and recreational use. Local properties close to Nanarup are not connected to the scheme, so currently don't benefit from a water supply. **Sandpatch:** No immediate local community in the vicinity. Stidwell Bridle Trail and Bibbulmun Track in area - construction impacts and access would need to be managed.
Customer sentiment	Customer sentiment toward the option, regardless of whether they reside within the local community directly affected by construction or operation.	**Nanarup:** Online petition to remove Nanarup site from consideration. 324 signatures to date. The petition doesn't include location details for the signatories. **Sandpatch:** Broad customer support for this site
Place based impacts - Short term	Potential short-term direct impacts on the local community during construction and/or operation, such as visual and noise disturbances, odour, traffic congestion, and restricted site access.	**Nanarup:** Increased heavy vehicle traffic on road from town. Construction noise expected. Some marine and beach exclusion areas will exist during marine construction, but beach access via carpark will largely be unaffected. Recreation activities such as boating, fishing and surfing will not be significantly impacted. **Sandpatch:** Increased heavy vehicle traffic on road from town. Construction noise expected. Some exclusion areas will exist during marine construction. Beach access via stairs expected to be maintained. Recreation activities such as boating, fishing and surfing will not be significantly impacted. Access and/or enjoyment of Stidwell Bridle Trail and Bibbulmun Track may be compromised during construction.

Criteria	Definition	Considerations
Place based impacts - Long term	Potential long-term impacts on the local community that may arise from the option, such as changes to visual amenity, aesthetics, odour, increased traffic congestion, and restricted access	No site selection or detailed design complete. Odour is not expected to be a problem. Operational noise is expected at both sites but can be minimised. Increased traffic is expected at both sites. Site specific considerations are: **Nanarup:** Visual amenity is recognised as a key concern for beach users. The area's topography may help reduce visibility of the plant from the beach; however, some components of the facility are likely to be visible from certain viewpoints along the inlet. **Sandpatch:** Due to topography the plant will likely be visible from various viewpoints, regardless of the site selection.
Liveability Impacts	How the option may affect the quality of life for the local community and/or customers, including potential changes to water quality, service reliability, and/or community legacy initiatives.	Not able to be scored yet, as it depends on specific site selection and detailed design. At this stage, each site will be scored the same (neutral).
Aboriginal Heritage Cultural values	Potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural values including tangible and intangible value beyond those covered by Cultural Heritage regulations.	Not for CCG ranking – key stakeholder input is required
Political Priorities	Alignment of the option to State Government priorities.	Not for CCG ranking – key stakeholder input is required

CCG Assessment

The CCG was asked to review the impact of the two proposed areas (Sandpatch and Nanarup) against 4 of the 6 social criteria. The criteria of liveability, Aboriginal heritage and Political priorities were excluded for the reasons provided in the previous table.

NOTE:

- Scale: 1 – Significant negative impact | 2 – Moderate negative impact | 3 – Neutral | 4 – Moderate positive | 5 – Strong positive
- The CCG assessment included consideration of the impact of pipeline (location and maintenance)

Four groups (3 people per group) conducted an individual assessment, and the chart below shows the average scores across all groups. The results show a greater perceived negative impact for Nanarup across all criteria when compared with Sandpatch.

For completeness the table below provides the individual group scores

Sandpatch	Average	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Local community sentiment	3	3	3	3	3
Customer sentiment	3.75	4	3	4	4
Place based impacts - Short term	2.25	2	2	2	3
Place based impacts - Long term	3	3	3	3	3

Nanarup	Average	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Local community sentiment	1	1	1	1	1
Customer sentiment	2	2	3	2	1
Place based impacts - Short term	1.5	2	1	1	2
Place based impacts - Long term	2.5	3	1	3	3

6 Pipeline and Shore Crossing Study

Thomas Seeber from Atteris, presented the findings of a study on "Pipeline Shore Crossing and Marine Works Concept Design and Site Selection".

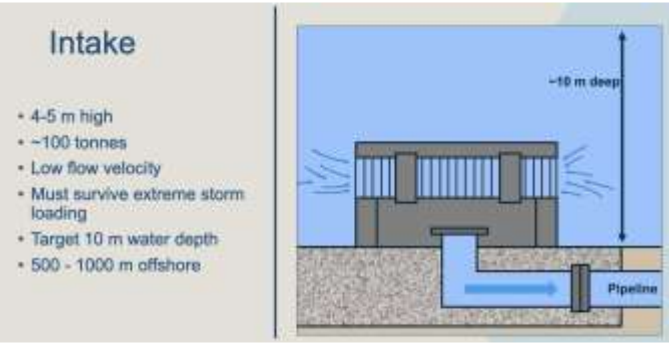
The shore crossing study explored the methods required and concept designs to establish the inlet and outflow infrastructure at both Nanarup and Sandpatch sites.

6.1 Design Considerations

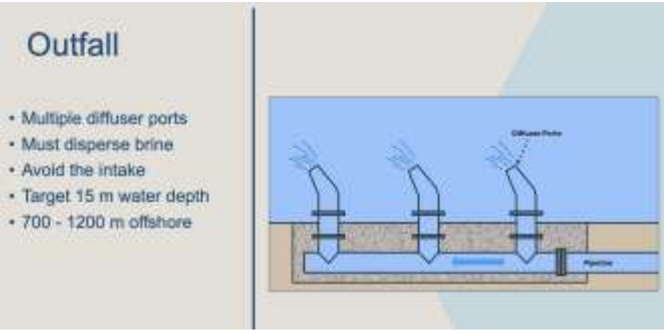
The presentation outlined the three primary ways to achieve shore crossing, highlighting the Horizonal Directional Drilling (HDD) as the most favourable approach for both sites. This was largely due to the projected capacity of the plant (3GL) and thus would not require the expense of tunnelling and a desire to avoid the amenity impacts of an open cut approach.

HDD has limits on the length of the tunnel and thus the overall pipe size. HDD is the process of drilling a smaller tunnel and then slowly increasing the size of the tunnel (reaming) to the required intake pipeline size of 750 mm (internal diameter).

To achieve the ‘low flow’ intake the inlet infrastructure needs to be of a certain size and depth. This ensures that the extraction process occurs at a flow rate that is comparable to or less than the existing ocean currents. The depth of water is also a factor to avoid impacts of high storm events (1-in-100 year) on the infrastructure.



To achieve the desired brine distribution, the outflow needs to be located in sufficient depth of water and located far enough away from the inlet infrastructure.



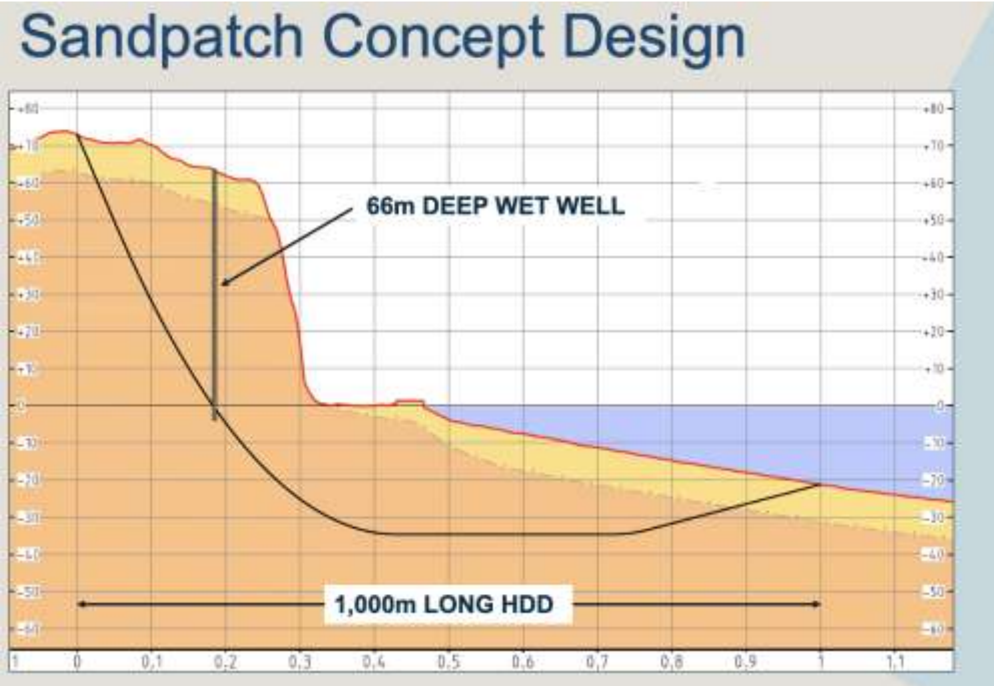
The typical design requires a vertical ‘wet well’ that sits below the natural sea level, so that sea water flow is gravity fed. Water for the desalination is then pumped from the ‘wet well’.

6.2 Sandpatch concept design

The characteristic of the Sandpatch site include:

- Up to 150 m elevation
- 60 - 70 m cliffs
- Tamala Limestone (ie: this is a less desirable substance to drill through, due to the mix of rock, sand and potential for sub-surface cavities)
- Severe seastate all year (eg: the unprotected area makes of a higher than desirable swell, which makes serviceability of the site difficult)

The concept design requires a 66m Wet Well, which will require specialised equipment.



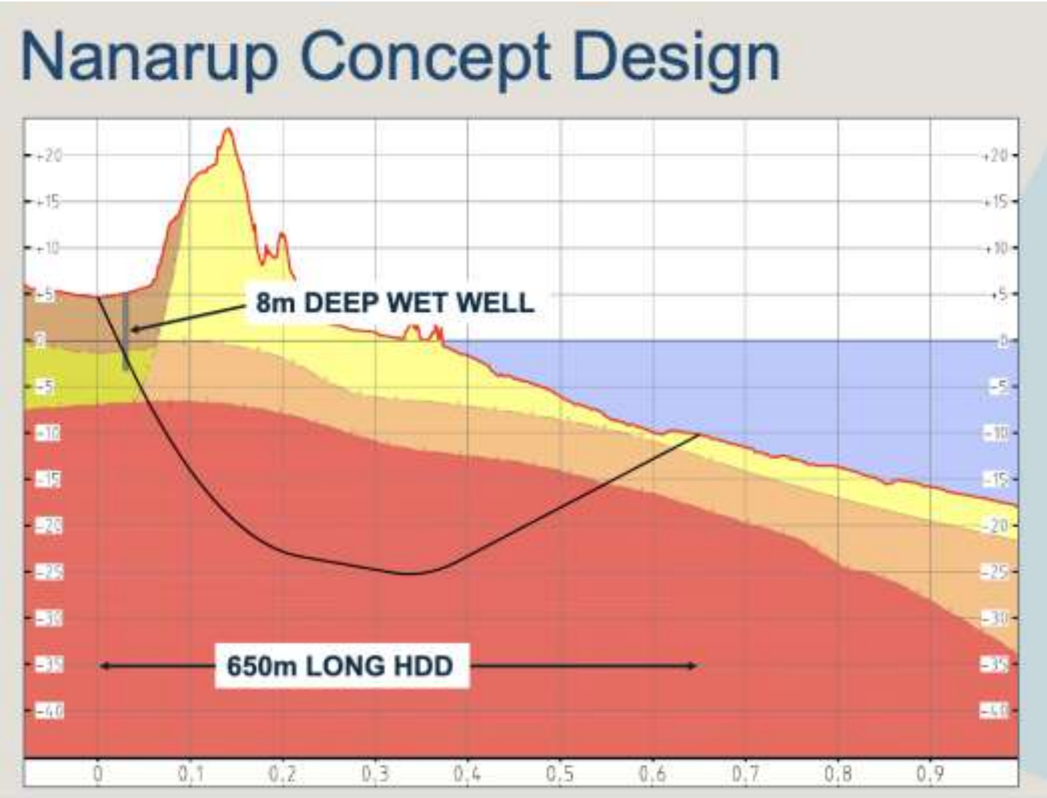
Legend: Yellow Colour = Sand | Orange Colour = Tamala Limestone | Black = Pipeline

6.3 Nanarup concept design

The characteristics of the Nanarup as a site include:

- Sheltered from south-westerly swells
- Tamala Limestone or Gneiss formation (ie: Gneiss is slower to drill through but is preferred as the borehole naturally holds up)
- Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve on the eastern portion
- Transgressive dune system on the eastern portion

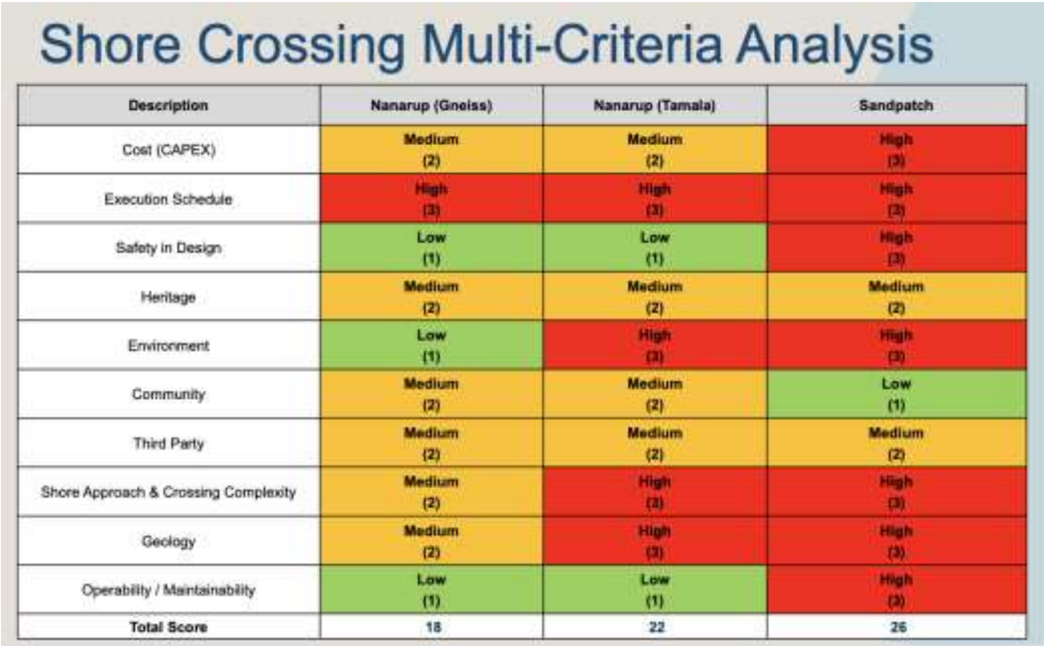
The concept design requires a 8m Wet Well, which requires standard equipment to drill.



Legend: Yellow Colour = Sand | Orange Colour = Tamala Limestone | Red Colour = Gneiss Rock | Black = Pipeline

6.4 Risk analysis

The risk analysis conducted by Atteris does not use the same as the criteria used by Water Corporation, as their work is purely focused on the risk and feasibility of the pipeline infrastructure.



Shore Crossing Multi-Criteria Analysis

Description	Nanarup (Gneiss)	Nanarup (Tamala)	Sandpatch
Cost (CAPEX)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	High (3)
Execution Schedule	High (3)	High (3)	High (3)
Safety in Design	Low (1)	Low (1)	High (3)
Heritage	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Environment	Low (1)	High (3)	High (3)
Community	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Low (1)
Third Party	Medium (2)	Medium (2)	Medium (2)
Shore Approach & Crossing Complexity	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)
Geology	Medium (2)	High (3)	High (3)
Operability / Maintainability	Low (1)	Low (1)	High (3)
Total Score	18	22	26

The analysis shows different risk profiles for Nanarup depending on the site location. Nanarup sites with more Tamala limestone (to the east) has a higher risk profile than those with the Gneiss rock to the west.

The results were characterised by the Corporation as

"Compelling and points towards Nanarup, however the MCA process is not completed and there are a number of other investigations that may change the overall site selection process, thus no decision is being made at this stage."

7 Next Steps

The CCG is free to share what they are learning through these meetings and are asked not to share the specific reports posted on the portal, due to the level of explanation required for them to be useful.

The Corporation is planning a series of engagement activities

- Thursday 6 November 2025 from 5.30pm to 7pm at Lower Kalgan Hall
- Monday 24 November at the Albany Plaza from 10am to 1pm
- Friday 7 and Saturday 8 November 2025 from 9am at Albany Agricultural Show

The December meeting will focus on:

- Brine dispersion modelling – preliminary results
- Completed Multi-Criteria Assessment on both sites
- Update on other investigation activities

CCG Question

Does the Corporation include in its costing the required weed maintenance of the pipeline (surface or buried)?

The work to either lay or bury pipeline disturbs the soil and results in unwanted weeds, that the community are left to manage.
The Corporation advised that weed maintenance is considered in the delivery phase of the project and is included within restoration requirements and if there are separate revegetation contracts. It can be factored into the pipeline maintenance plans.

8 Appendix One – Attendance

CCG Members

Name		Meeting 4	Meeting 3	Meeting 2	Meeting 1
1	Aaron Williams	Apology	Apology	Apology	Present
2	Anthony Wise	Apology	Apology	Present	Present
3	Chris Meuzelaar	Present	Present	Present	Present
4	Derek van Buren	Present	Present	Present	Apology
5	Diane Evers	Apology	Present	Present	Present
6	Frank Ruggera	Present	Present	Present	Present
7	Gary Crockford	Present	Present	Present	Apology
8	Harm Mulder	Present	Apology	Present	Present
9	Jeremy Hadlow	Present	Present	Apology	Present
10	Joy Mealor	Present	Apology	Present	Present
11	Laura Bird	Present	Present	Present	Present
12	Natalie Reeves	Present	Present	Apology	Present
13	Rebecca Freeman	Present	Present	Present	Apology
14	Sam Williams	Apology	Apology	Apology	Present
15	Sandra Swain	Present	Apology	Present	Present
16	Sarah-Louise Collins	Apology	Present	Present	Present
17	Wendy Coffey	Present	Present	Present	Present

Water Corporation Staff

Name		Meeting 4	Meeting 3	Meeting 2	Meeting 1
1	Adrian Stewart	Present	Present	Present	Present
2	Julia Phillips	Present	Present	Apology	Present
3	Matthew Bowman	Present	Present	Present	Present
4	Sally Courboules	Apology	Apology	Present	Present
5	Joel Mclure	Present	Present	Present	Present
6	Kym Williams	Present	Present	Present	Present
7	Carina Harris	Present	Present	Present	Apology
8	Palenque Blair	-	Present	-	-

– END –

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