



**SA Water splurges on band aids  
16 April 2007**

SA Water has adopted another expensive band aid in an attempt to patch up Streaky Bay's water supply.

The four-year-old 55 kilometre 150mm pipeline to connect Streaky Bay to the overdrawn underground water basin south of Port Lincoln is currently being patched with a 10 km section of 200mm pipe. The patch, alongside the existing pipeline, is to take adequate water over a small hill to provide the additional water that SA Water assumed would be sourced from the now unusable Robinson Basin.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold, who last week toured the region to assess its water supply predicament, said the patching is pathetic.

"SA Water has provided inadequate funding to lay the 13ms of pipeline needed to give 100% capacity instead only allocating enough money for a 10km pipeline that will meet 80% of capacity.

"I call on the government to put in place, as a matter of urgency, an inquiry by the parliamentary Economic & Finance Standing Committee into the economic and professional business capacity of SA Water management, *including its monopoly* to provide water for the state," she said.

Mrs Penfold said that in the early 1900s, the world's longest gravity fed water pipeline was built 400 kilometres from Port Lincoln to Ceduna to open up the Eyre Peninsula.

"Now SA Water cannot build an appropriate 55 kilometre pipeline to provide Streaky Bay with adequate water and with enough pressure in the pipe to get over a small hill.

"This is on top of the SA Water expenditure on a \$48.5 million pipeline to deliver the Eyre Peninsula region with 1.4 gegalitres of water from the overdrawn River Murray when the region requires an estimated 10 gegalitres if it is to fulfill its mining and housing development potential.

"SA Water's incompetence is even more scandalous when considered against the fact that private enterprise would have provided desalination at Ceduna and Port Lincoln to do the job without any taxpayer funding using largely existing pipelines," she said. ENDS