The Department of Water: our role in delivering the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project

The Department of Water is responsible for managing the state’s water and is playing an important role in the delivery of the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project.

Working in partnership with the lead agency, the Department of Regional Development and Lands, and other government agencies, the department has a dedicated team that is contributing to three integral components of the project.

What is the Department of Water’s role?

The department recently completed a process to identify a preferred proponent to provide irrigation water services in the expansion area. Negotiations will now be coordinated with the preferred proponent. Work is also underway to set the pricing arrangements for irrigation services and issue licensed allocations for water resources in the Ord.

Selecting the service provider: In June 2009 the Department of Water opened a register of interest for those interested in becoming the irrigation service provider for the Ord expansion area. A request for proposal was subsequently released on 30 November 2009. In June 2010 SunWater Ltd was named as the preferred service provider for the expansion project. The Ord Irrigation Cooperative Ltd was named as the reserve preferred proponent.

The selection process will be finalised once the preferred proponent has been issued with a water services license by the Economic Regulation Authority.

The new service provider will operate the irrigation service for the 8 000 hectares of farmland to be developed in the Weaber Plains area.

Setting the pricing arrangements: To ensure consistency with national water reform requirements, the department will establish fair pricing arrangements with the preferred proponent. Together with other agencies, the department will work with the preferred provider to negotiate the most suitable pricing structures to support the developing irrigation area.

Allocation and licensing: Before land sales start, the department will issue the new water service provider with a licensed water allocation from the Ord River. In the 2006 Ord River water allocation plan, the department identified about 400 gigalitres per year of water available for future expansion.

Updates

If you would like to know more about the Department of Water’s contribution to the Ord expansion project please monitor our website for updates [www.water.wa.gov.au/ordexpansion](http://www.water.wa.gov.au/ordexpansion) or contact: Jaci Moore, project manager, Department of Water, Head office [jaci.moore@water.wa.gov.au](mailto:jaci.moore@water.wa.gov.au) (08) 6364 7010

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