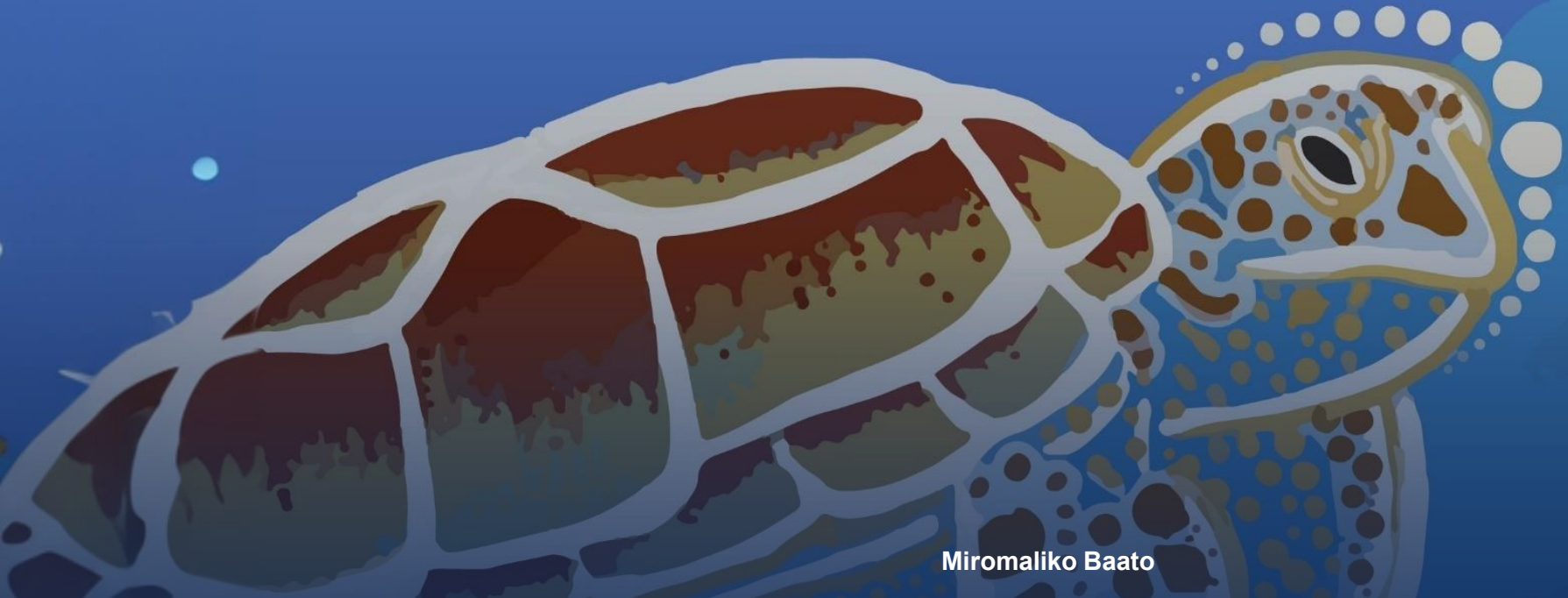
HUNTER WATER STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY FORUM

31 March 2026

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Hunter Water acknowledges the Traditional Countries of the Awabakal, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Wonnarua and Worimi peoples and the Countries on which we operate and beyond where our water flows.

We recognise and respect the cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection to the lands and waters of our Traditional Custodians and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Miromaliko Baato

In Gathung language, Miromaliko Baato means saving water. Hunter Water engaged Awabakal Elder Aunty Tracey Hanshaw to help us incorporate Aboriginal Language as part of Our Corporate Strategy. While we are aware that there are many different languages (with variances in spelling) from the Countries on which we operate, Tracey advised Gathung language in this instance, as it is both Awabakal, which is the Country where our Honeysuckle office lies, and overlaps into Worimi.

Artwork by Tyson Jolly

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Jennifer Hayes, Managing Director

MARCH 2026

WELCOME FROM HUNTER WATER'S NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR – JENNIFER HAYES

WELCOME TO THE DESALINATION PLANT SITE

19 December 2025

Jack up barge arrives at Belmont as next phase of desalination project begins

- Once operational, the Belmont Desalination Plant will supply up to 30 million litres of drinking water a day, providing around 15% of the Lower Hunter' average daily demand.
- This project is a major step the region's water security, diversifying our water sources and reducing reliance on dams and rainfall.
- We have reached a significant milestone in the construction – with commencement of marine works and tunnelling.
- You'll hear more about these works from the project team today, and we encourage your questions.

CURRENT DRINKING WATER STORAGES

66.9%

AS AT 29 MAR 26

Grahamstown
Dam

STORAGE LEVEL

61.6%

112,335 ML

↓ 0.9% 1 WEEK AGO

↓ 2.7% 1 MONTH AGO

↓ 19.2% 1 YEAR AGO

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

182,305 ML

Tomago
Sandbeds

STORAGE LEVEL

73.6%

39,757 ML

↓ 1.0% 1 WEEK AGO

↓ 3.7% 1 MONTH AGO

↓ 18.2% 1 YEAR AGO

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

54,000 ML

Chichester
Dam

STORAGE LEVEL

72.8%

13,367 ML

↓ 1.5% 1 WEEK AGO

↑ 2.2% 1 MONTH AGO

↓ 27.2% 1 YEAR AGO

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

18,356 ML

Anna Bay
Sandbeds

STORAGE LEVEL

100.0%

14,537 ML

0.0% 1 WEEK AGO

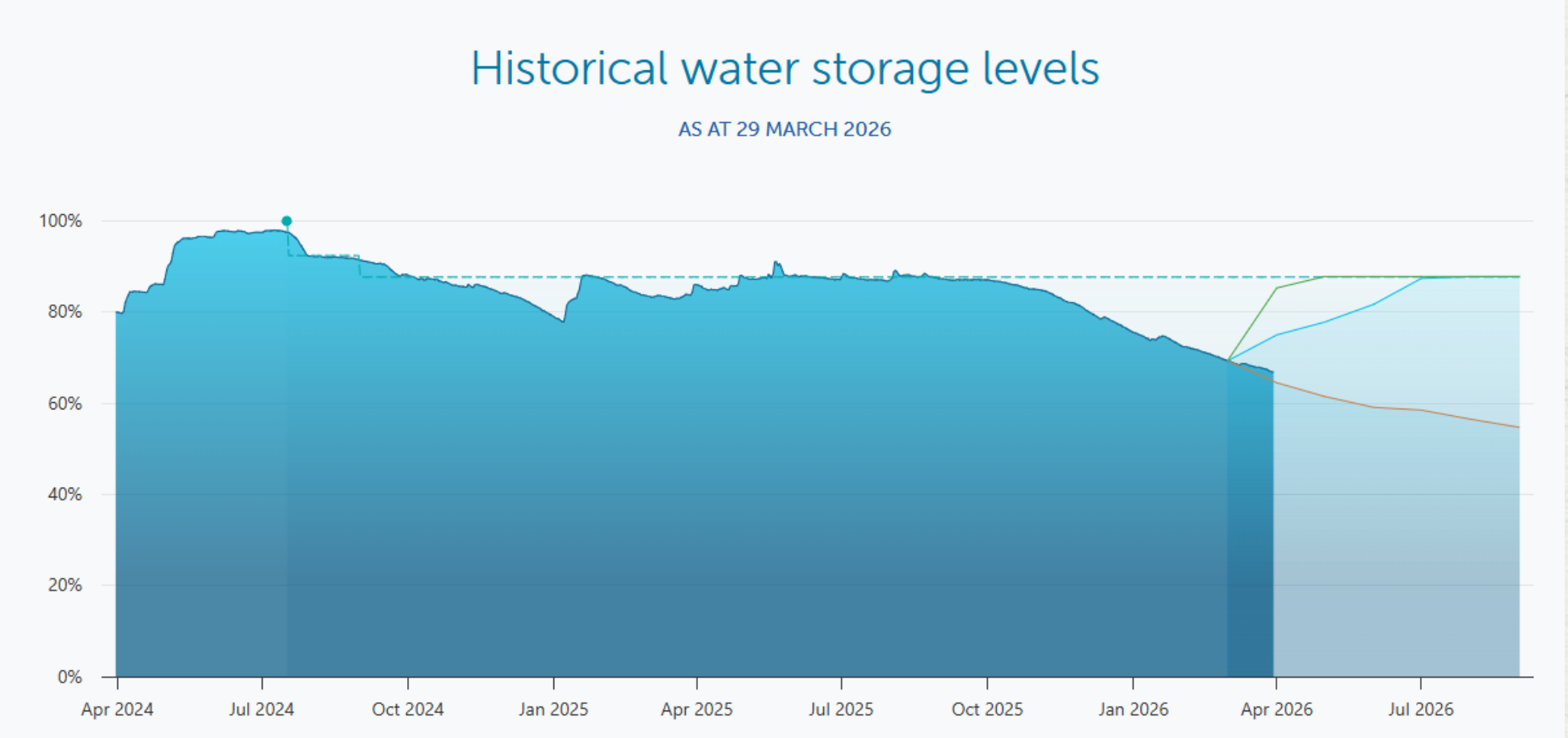
0.0% 1 MONTH AGO

↑ 17.8% 1 YEAR AGO

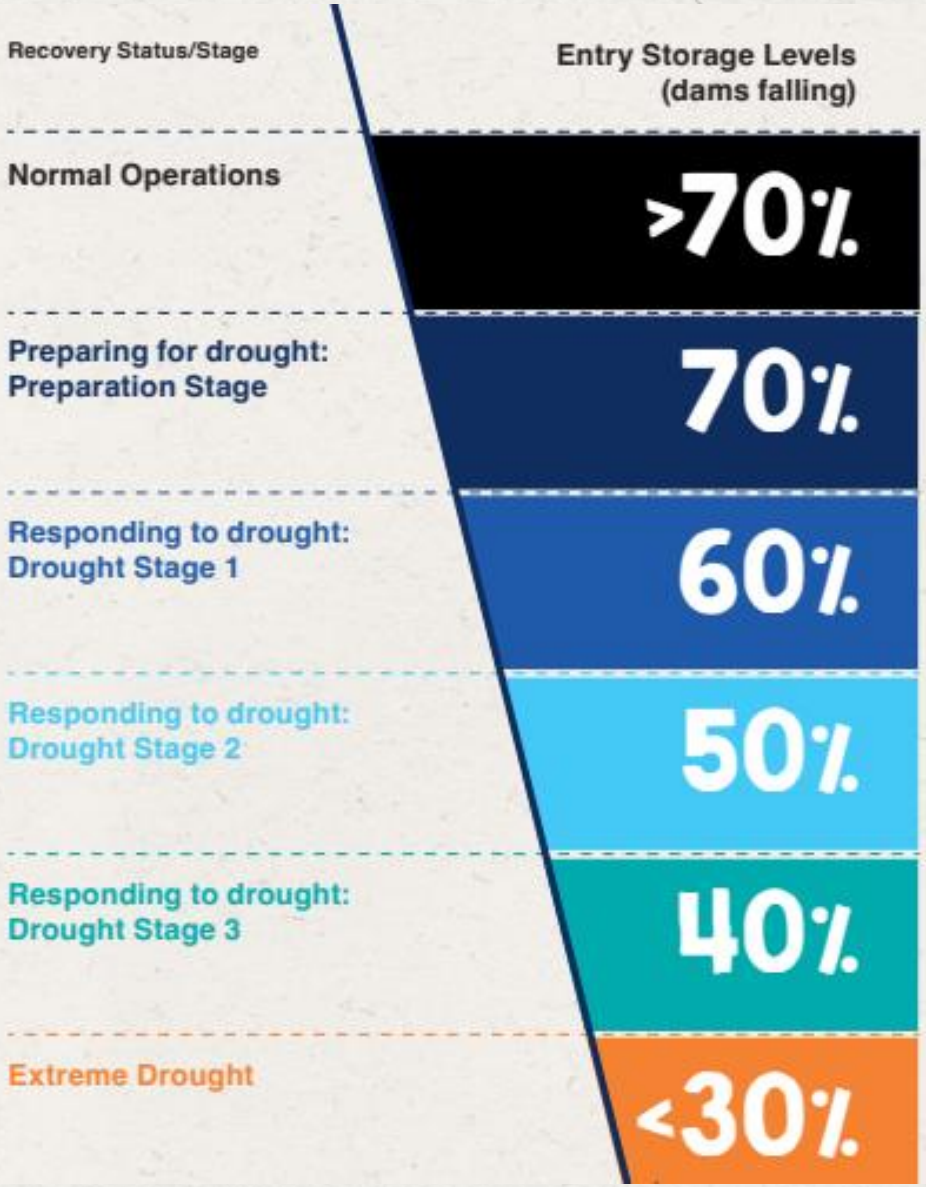
MAXIMUM CAPACITY

14,537 ML

HISTORICAL STORAGE LEVELS AND OUTLOOK



Dashed line represents interim top water level. In mid 2024, we progressively reduced the top water level at Grahamstown Dam to 82% storage capacity to reduce the risk to the community near the dam in the event of an earthquake that damages the dam's embankments.



DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

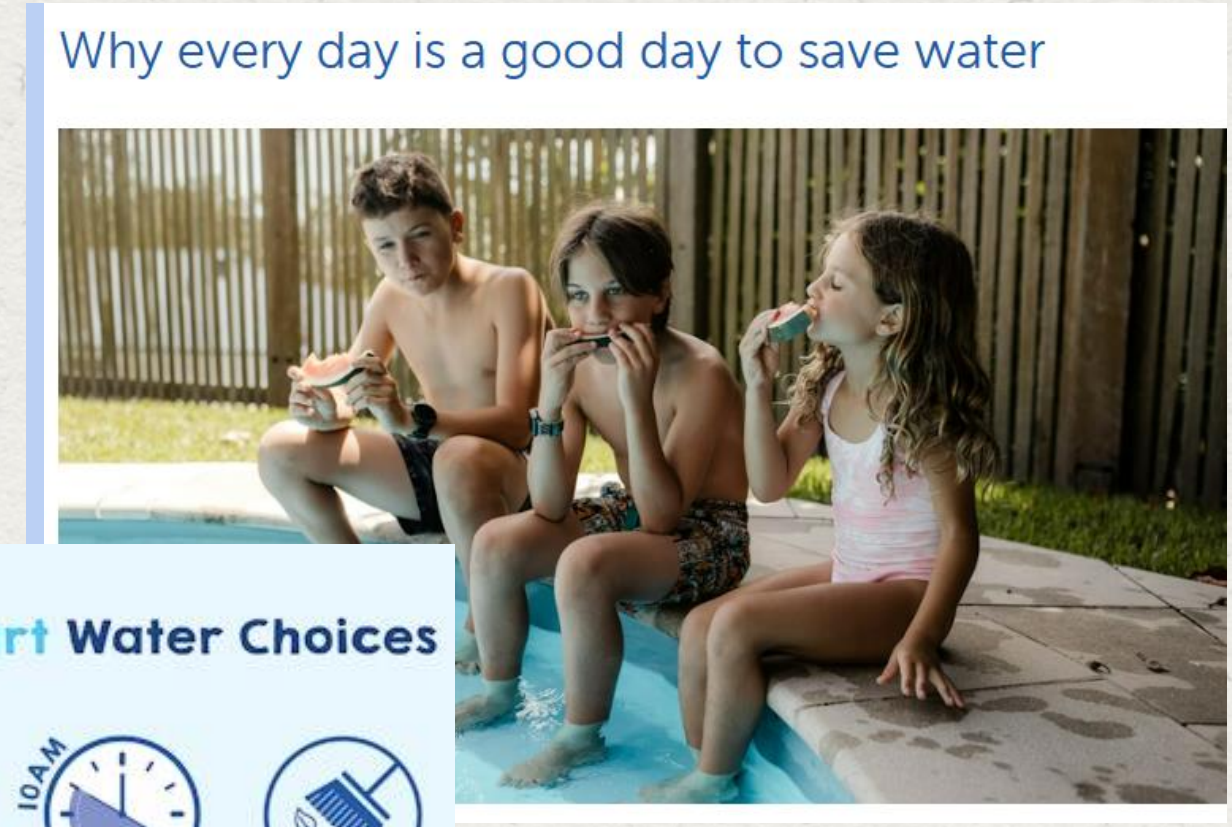
Water storages in the Lower Hunter have dropped to below 70% – the lowest level in more than 5 years – due to recent dry weather and high evaporation over the summer months.

Hunter Water is monitoring the levels closely and is preparing to increase its water conservation activities to help maintain water supply and reduce demand across the region.

Hunter Water customers are encouraged to keep using water wisely by making ‘Smart Water Choices’ around their homes and businesses.

WATER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

- In the Lower Hunter, warm weather and high demand can quickly place pressure on our water supply, making everyday water-saving habits more important than ever.
- Hunter Water's water conservation campaign continues to encourage sustainable water use by reminding the community that "Every Day is a Good Day to Save Water."
- The campaign features a mix of TV, radio, print and social media advertising to reach a broad audience.
- We have had high levels of engagement via Facebook, Instagram and YouTube ads.
- Smart Water Choices are the Lower Hunter's mandatory Permanent Water Conservation Measures →



RESERVOIR AND PIPELINE UPGRADES COMPLETE AT HARPERS HILL

10 March 2026

Bigger, stronger, more reliable: reservoir and pipeline upgrades complete at Harpers Hill

Hunter Water has delivered major upgrades to the Harpers Hill Reservoir and its connecting pipeline to improve water supply for Lochinvar, Greta, Branxton and North Rothbury.

The original 0.9 ML steel reservoir from the 1950s has been replaced with a modern 7 ML concrete reservoir to meet current demand and support future growth.

A new 2.5 km pipeline now links the Lochinvar pump station to the reservoir, ensuring sufficient water can be supplied during peak demand periods.

LOVE WATER GRANTS - 2026

17 February 2026

This Valentine's Day, Hunter Water invites communities to celebrate their love of water

- Hunter Water's Love Water Grants Program for 2026 will provide $125,000 to support community-led projects that improve water efficiency, sustainability and wellbeing across the Lower Hunter.
- Now in its ninth year, the program continues to support innovative local initiatives that deliver practical water-saving outcomes while strengthening community connections.
- Love Water Grants empower communities to turn good ideas into meaningful action.
- Applications for the 2026 Love Water Grants Program closed on Sunday 15 March and are currently being reviewed.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

THANK YOU

Any questions?

Call
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1300 657 000, 24 hours, seven days
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BELMONT DESALINATION PLANT

HUNTER WATER STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY FORUM – MARCH 2026

DUNCAN RAYWARD

WE WILL COVER…

- Background and need for the project
- Overview of the desalination process
- Construction progress
- Frequently asked questions

BELMONT DESALINATION PLANT - DEVELOPMENT

Lower Hunter Water Plan

2014

2015

2016

Site selection

2017

2018

EIS development and readiness activities

2019

EIS submitted for planning approval

Drought response desal 15M/L day

2020

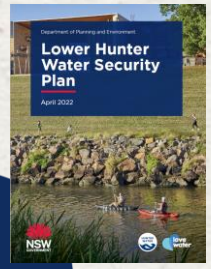
Drought response desal 30M/L day

EIS amendment

2021

Planning approval obtained

2022



Lower Hunter Water Security Plan

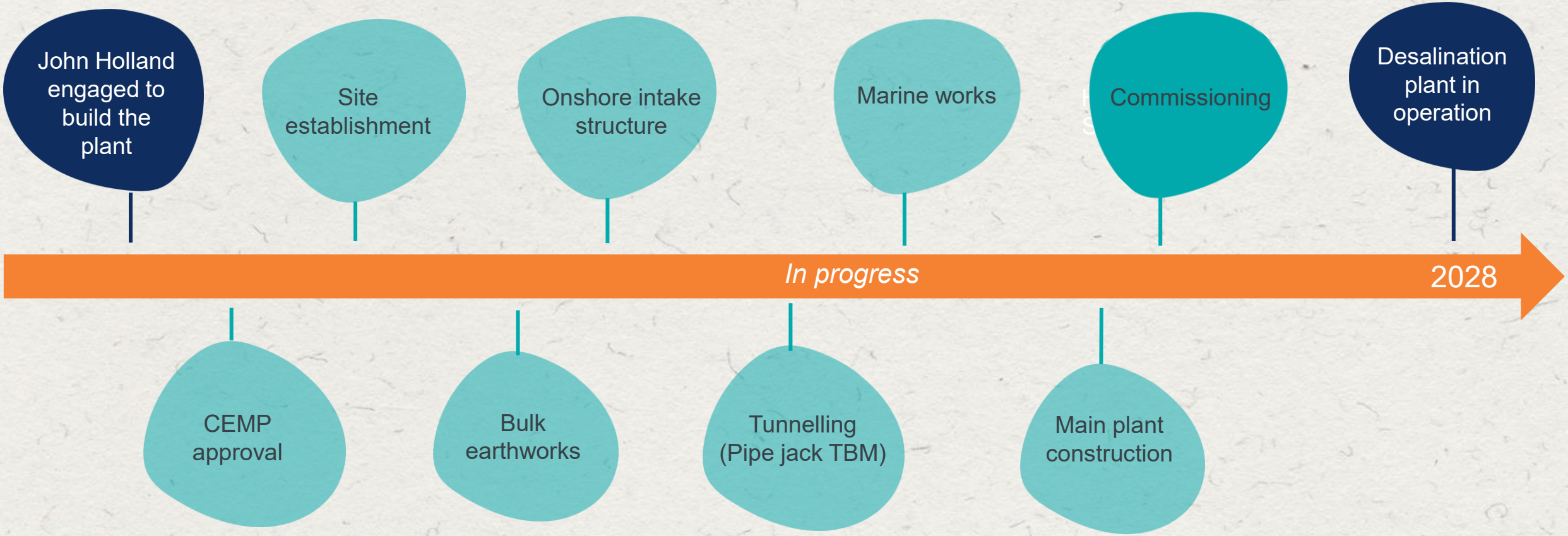
2023

2024

EIS modification

Permanent desal 30M/L day

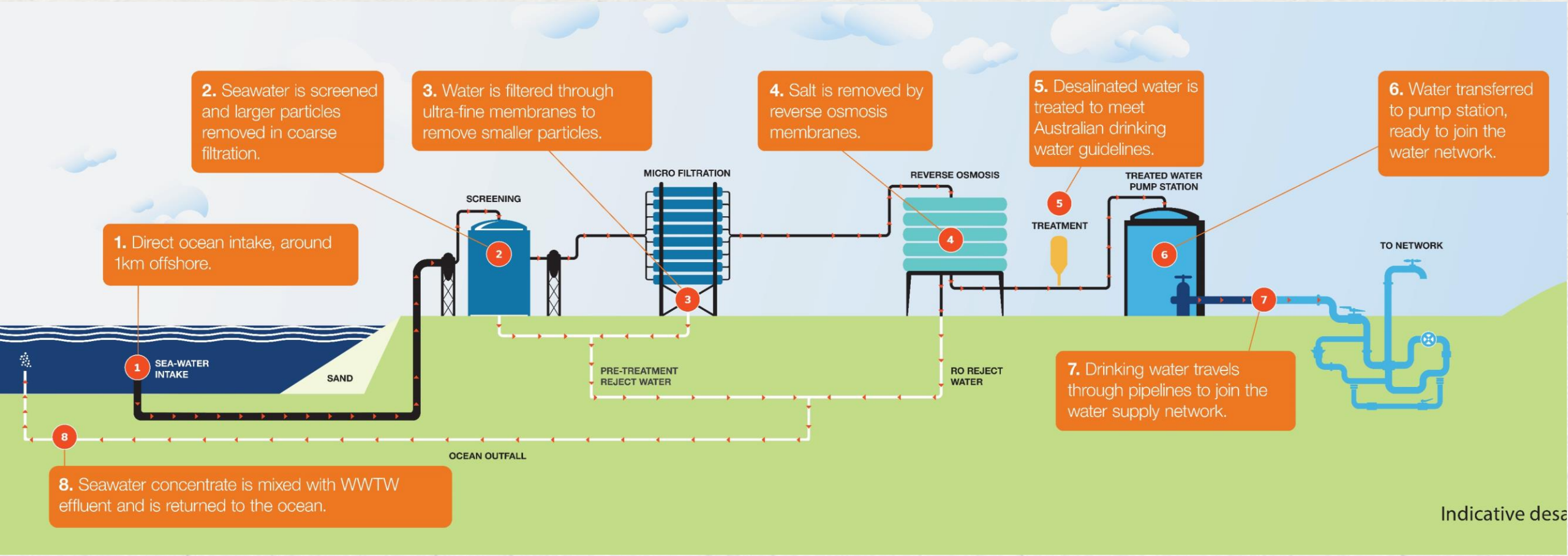
BELMONT DESALINATION PLANT - DELIVERY



KEY FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Fact or feature	Benefit
Permanent desalination plant	Helps provide resilience and futureproofs our network: • Drought • Significant maintenance tasks • Dam water quality (e.g. Sydney Water)
30 million litres a day	15% of our average daily water needs
Rainfall independent	Increases diversity of our system
Can be ramped up and down as needed	Flexible water supply source that is responsive to water supply needs

DESALINATION PROCESS OVERVIEW



CONSTRUCTION - OVERVIEW

CONSTRUCTION – PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

Onshore construction:

Site preparation…….. 

Earthworks…….. 

Buildings…….. 

Fit-out…….. 

Commissioning…….. 

Offshore construction:

Tunnelling…….. 

Direct ocean intake.... 

Supporting works:

HV upgrades…….. 

Southern watermain.. 

Northern watermain... 

Valve & reservoirs….. 

CONSTRUCTION – WHAT'S WHAT

CONSTRUCTION – MARINE WORKS OVERVIEW

CONSTRUCTION – FIRST CAISSON INSTALL

CONSTRUCTION – CONCRETE POUR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Will it run all the time?	• Flexible water supply source that can be ramped up and down in response to water supply needs • We will be testing different operating regimes over a 2-year period from 2028 once the plant is built
How will it be powered?	• The plant will run on 100% renewable energy. While we can't generate that power on the site, all electricity we use will come from accredited renewable sources.
Isn't the intake too close to the existing WWTW outfall?	• ~700m between the two, with currents in between • Multiple treatment steps to remove any contaminants • Desalinated water needs to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and be safe for human consumption
How much will the Plant cost customers?	• On average from 2025-2030, customers will annually be paying $81 more due to building the Belmont desalination plant.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
How have you protected the Plant against flood and sea level rise?	• The site has been raised by between 1.5 to 2.5 metres and sits at about 3.8-4.3 metres above sea level
Won't marine life get sucked into the Plant?	• The flow rate of seawater entering the intake pipeline will be quite slow and less than seawater currents in the area, allowing marine life to swim out and not get drawn into the plant.
Where will the desalinated water go?	• Customers closest to the plant may receive water from our two dams, the desalination plant or a combination of both. • The plant's water proportion will change throughout the day due to variations in supply and demand.
Will it be a 'white elephant' like the Sydney Desalination Plant?	• While originally designed to operate only in times of drought, the Sydney plant has been running since 2019 to help address several dam water quality issues arising from bushfires, flood and significant maintenance tasks in Sydney Water's supply network. • To date, has produced over 260 billion litres of drinking water