

# NORTHERN ADELAIDE IRRIGATION SCHEME



The South Australian Government is acting to grow the capacity of the Northern Adelaide Plains region to ensure the long-term viability of its horticulture industry and the social and economic future of its communities.

The government is proposing to help secure large volumes of affordable, high security, recycled water for the region through the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS).

This would transform the region into the national leader in intensive, high-tech food production, support existing industry to expand and become more competitive, as well as drive employment growth and attract new skills and talent into South Australia.

An additional 12 gigalitres (GL) per year of recycled water suitable for irrigation would be sourced from the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant, increasing the reuse of treated water from this site by 60 per cent.

The NAIS supports the Northern Economic Plan by creating jobs for the Northern Adelaide Plains and outer northern suburbs of Adelaide, and aligns with the State Government's economic priorities of Premium Food and Wine Produced in our Clean Environment and Exported to the World, Growth through Innovation, and Unlocking our Resources, Energy and Renewables.

**An additional  
12 gigalitres (GL) per  
year of recycled water  
for industry in the  
region would:**



create more than  
**3,700 jobs**



attract  
**\$1.1 billion**  
in private  
investment



add **\$578 million**  
per year to  
the state's  
economy



result in **300 ha** of  
new export-focused  
high-tech horticulture  
production

## THE TIME IS RIPE



Producing fresh, premium foods to meet changing consumer needs and ensuring a reliable and sustainable food supply to meet global demand are two significant challenges facing Australia's horticulture industry in the 21st century.

Global demand for food will increase 70 per cent by 2050. This 'dining boom' is being driven by Asia's rapidly growing middle class, who are seeking high quality, clean and healthy food imports.

This demand equates to an estimated \$1.7 trillion worth of agricultural export opportunities – ready and waiting for Australia – particularly South Australia.

The South Australian economy is undergoing a restructure. Traditional manufacturing is in decline; however, food and agribusiness are growing consistently. Today, one in five South Australian jobs is in the food and agribusiness sector.

The Northern Adelaide Plains is home to one of the largest vegetable covered cropping regions in Australia.

To ensure the region continues to lead the nation and be at the forefront of modern production, the Northern Adelaide Plains horticulture industry needs to increase its capacity and attract significant new investment.

**This additional water will transform the Northern Adelaide Plains into Australia's leader in high-tech, high-value, intensive and export competitive food production.**

## TRANSFORMING THE NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS

Additional and affordable, high security water will lead to a transformation of the Northern Adelaide Plains. The new investment in production capacity is expected to attract additional private investment into processing, manufacturing, transport, training, and

professional and research services, leading to more jobs for the region.

There will be significant opportunities for entry level employment and for growers to access new water and expand.

This will drive greater demand for training and education to increase skills and capabilities so people can take advantage of new markets and export opportunities generated from this initiative.



# PROVIDING WATER FOR DEMAND



South Australia is a leader in recycled water use. The Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant already provides recycled water for food production.

Recycled water is high security water, independent of climate variations.

To stimulate new investment in large-scale intensive food production, additional water needs to be made available.

The South Australian Government has applied to the Australian Government's National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF) for \$45.6 million in funding to construct the infrastructure for the NAIS.

A decision on the NWIDF funding is expected to be announced in mid-2017. If NWIDF funding is approved, the State Government, through SA Water, will co-invest \$110 million in the NAIS project.

A combined investment of \$155.6 million would be used to:

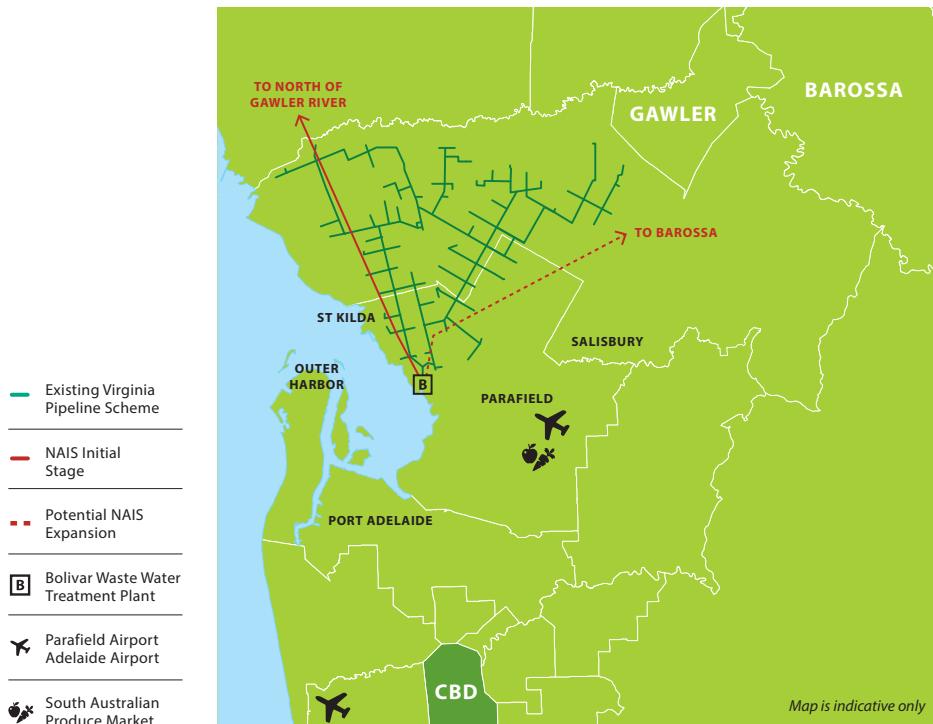
- upgrade infrastructure at the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant to produce an additional 12 GL per year of recycled water suitable for irrigation

- build core recycled water distribution infrastructure to the area north of the Gawler River
- enable a major new irrigation area to be constructed, including high-tech, high-value intensive food production.

Subject to receiving the funding, construction of the NAIS will begin in late 2017, with the intention of recycled water flowing to irrigators from December 2018.

The infrastructure would be designed and constructed to meet future capacity for when demand exceeds the initial supply and export markets grow.

Additional investment, in time, would enable the development of infrastructure to deliver a total of 20 GL of recycled water a year from the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant, expanding the region's horticulture industry and piping irrigation water to the Barossa.



**The full expansion to 20 GL of recycled water per year would create 6000 jobs, attract \$2 billion in private investment, add more than \$1 billion annually to the state's economy, and result in 600 hectares of new export-focused high-tech horticulture production**

# KEY BENEFITS

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Create more than **3700 new jobs** at peak employment for the Northern Adelaide Plains and surrounding suburbs



Help attract and retain the **best talent** in South Australia

## ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT



Reduce impacts on the environment by making better use of recycled waste water

## INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



Attract **\$1.1 billion** in private investment



Add **\$578 million** to state's economy per year



Assist industry to **access export markets**



Achieve scale and costs to be **export competitive**



Encourage private investment in **training and skills development**



Attract **complementary business** and investment



Result in **300 hectares** of new export-focused high-tech horticulture production

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**Government of  
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