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**Title:**

Statement from the Premier - Policy statement on water and sewerage services.

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... July 7, 1975.....  
Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,  
Victoria Square, Adelaide,  
South Australia 5001  
228 4811

POLICY STATEMENT ON WATER AND SEWERAGE SERVICES.

Adelaide will get its first filtered water next year, there will be more generous benefits for pensioners on water, sewerage, land tax and Council rates under the Pensioner Remission Scheme, and country towns will get improved water and sewerage facilities.

These were among the assurances given today by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan.

Mr. Dunstan said the first 60,000 homes in Adelaide would have filtered water next year.

This would follow the commissioning of the Hope Valley Treatment Works which would be the first of eight water treatment works to serve the whole metropolitan area under a ten year programme begun in 1973.

The estimated cost of the scheme was \$90 million.

Mr. Dunstan said when the water filtration programme was completed, the Government would have a look at the possibility of using reservoir reserves for recreational purposes.

Reporting on past developments and future plans for water and sewerage services throughout the State, Mr. Dunstan said :-

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES:

The Government has pressed ahead with its policy of expanding water supply services to ensure adequate supplies to meet the needs of South Australia.

Capital expenditure on waterworks during the present term of office of the Government will be approximately \$70 million.

WATER RESOURCES:

At the earliest possible time the Government will introduce to Parliament a Water Resources Act to provide Government with machinery to apply modern principles of water management. This will ensure that the most beneficial use is made of the State's resources.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLIES:

The action taken to improve supplies to existing urban areas and services new subdivisions will assure adequate supplies of water for the southern and central metropolitan area for many years to come.

This action will also serve Monarto and improve supplies to hills townships en route.

Little Para Dam Project

The Little Para Dam Project is under construction and planned for commissioning in 1977 at a cost of \$23 million. This major scheme will supplement supplies to the expanding Salisbury-Elizabeth area.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES:

Significant improvements have been made to water supplies at Renmark, Murray Bridge and Yorke Peninsula and in the Owen and South East areas.

On the West Coast, the important Tod Trunk Main has been replaced by a larger new main right through to Ceduna at a total cost of \$15 million. The Lock-Kimba system of pumping stations, major pipeline and storage tanks has been completed at a cost of \$6 million under a grant negotiated with the Australian Government. A further \$1 million will be spent on branch mains from the major pipeline. The \$4 million Uley South water supply scheme has also been commenced to meet the increasing demand for water at Port Lincoln. These projects, together with less major works, will ensure adequate supplies to this dry and vulnerable part of South Australia.

On the quality side, chlorination stations have been installed at Robertstown, Beetaloo, Upper Paskeville, Hahndorf and Hindmarsh Valley to ensure the safety of country water supplies and iron removal plants have been installed at Robe, Beachport and Lucindale.

Water Treatment - Northern Towns

The South Australian Government recognises the problems of water quality of northern towns particularly those supplied by Morgan-Whyalla pipeline. At the present time, the Government is carrying

but a study of the requirements for water filtration for this area and has already made submissions to the Australian Government for financial assistance under the National Water Programme.

Design work will commence in 1976-77. Construction work in 1977-78.

#### SEWERAGE SERVICES:

With over \$39 million spent on the provision of sewerage services in South Australia during the life of the present Parliament, the Government has made considerable headway in catching up the backlog of sewerage works, ensured the provision of sewerage services to all new subdivisions and extended sewerage services in major country towns.

#### METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE:

Adelaide continues to lead all other Australian capital cities in the provision of full sewerage services with 96% of the metropolitan area served and sewerage services available to some 1,900 vacant allotments connected to the system. The Government requires that all new subdivisions be provided with water and sewerage services and this will ensure the continuation of this very satisfactory situation.

Sewerage services have been provided at Braeview, Tea Tree Gully, Hope Valley, Taperoo and Stirling Town Centre. Considerable progress has been made on the Blackwood-Belair Scheme where approximately \$2½ million will have been spent over the past three years. This scheme will be extended to include Coromandel Valley when Stage II commences in 1976-77.

#### COUNTRY SEWERAGE:

The \$4 million Gawler Sewerage Scheme was commenced in 1968-69 and will be approaching completion by March 1976.

In the Iron Triangle, the \$4.7 million first stage of the Port Pirie Scheme, which serves the main areas of the city has been completed and the second and final stage will be started later this year. A \$5 million sewerage scheme for Port Augusta is planned for completion in 1978 while improvements are in hand to upgrade the Whyalla Sewerage Treatment Works to overcome the environmental disabilities (odour) of the present works.

On the Metropolitan Watersheds, the sewerage of Hahndorf and Balhannah is proceeding and a start on the major Stirling-Aldgate-Bridgewater Scheme is scheduled for July 1976. These works are essential to protect the basic quality of Adelaide's water supply.

The Mount Gambier sewerage system has been expanded to avoid disposal of sewerage and industrial effluents to the important underground water supplies of the area. The \$705,000 first stage of the amplification of the sewerage disposal system is almost completed and environmental studies and designs are proceeding to determine the treatment requirements necessary to protect the marine environment at the sea outfall.

#### PENSIONER REMISSION SCHEME:

In July 1973 the Government introduced a Pensioner REmission Scheme which provided for 60% remission on rates for water and sewerage - also for Land Tax and Council rates. The Government is anxious to ensure that pensioners continue to receive a real reduction in rates and taxes under this scheme. Property revaluations have eroded some of the benefits so the Government will take steps to increase by 25% the previous maximum annual remissions. The maximum remissions will now be :-

Water	\$50
Sewerage	\$50
Council rates	\$100
Land Tax	\$100

The additional concessions will cost the Government approximately half a million dollars.

#### USE OF BOLIVAR EFFLUENT:

The Government will continue very extensive investigation into the possible use of Bolivar effluent to supplement underground water supplies in the Northern Adelaide Plains.

#### RIVER MURRAY - WATER LEGISLATION:

The South Australian Government is pressing strongly for Governments responsible for the management of the River Murray to amend the River Murray Waters Agreement.

The purpose of this move is to give more power to the River Murray Commission so that it can adopt measures to control salinity and other forms of water pollution along the whole length of the River Murray.

#### RIVER TORRENS DEVELOPMENT:

The Government will continue with its investigation of the River Torrens Valley and determine measures required for adequate planning and control.