

WATER

The Smelter and Refinery Expansion (SRE) Project is a proposed expansion of Olympic Dam's existing smelter and refinery facilities. If approved, the project would increase copper production capacity and support Copper SA's ambition to grow South Australia into a globally significant mine-to-metal copper province.

Water has been identified as one of the key topics of interest during community and stakeholder engagement. In a region where water is a valuable resource, understanding how additional water will be sourced, used and managed is a key part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

The EIS includes detailed assessments of water demand, water supply, groundwater quality and surface water management. These studies help build an understanding of how the SRE Project may interact with local water resources and identify opportunities to minimise impacts through project design and operational planning.

Additional water will be required to support expanded smelting and refining capacity at Olympic Dam, however, to reduce demand wherever possible, the project plan will incorporate a range of water efficiency measures, including water recovery and recycling systems, process improvements and technologies designed to maximise water reuse and reduce overall consumption.

Importantly, the project does not propose additional abstraction from the Great Artesian Basin above current operational volumes. Future water requirements are expected to be supplied primarily through the proposed Northern Water Project, supported by existing water infrastructure and potentially other non-Great Artesian Basin sources if required.

Groundwater quality has also been assessed using extensive monitoring data collected from the Olympic Dam region. Existing conditions, including groundwater interactions associated with the SRE Project have been carefully considered with assessments indicating the project is not expected to alter existing groundwater conditions, and ongoing monitoring and management programs will continue.

Surface water assessments have also been undertaken to understand how stormwater and flooding could interact with new infrastructure. Flood modelling and drainage assessments have been used to inform project design and ensure water management systems are appropriate for both current and future climate conditions.