

Belmont Desalination Plant

Project update - September 2024



Hunter Water has approval to build a permanent desalination plant at Belmont so we can continue to meet the needs of our customers now and in the future.

Desalination was originally identified in the 2014 Lower Hunter Water Plan as a drought response measure, which was approved by the NSW Government in 2021.

As one of the few water source options not dependent on rainfall, desalination was identified in the 2022 Lower Hunter Water Security Plan as a key action to help us to continue to support our customers and communities with a safe and reliable water source regardless of changes in weather or climate.

We recently submitted a Modification Report to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) seeking approval to build and operate a permanent desalination plant at Belmont.

With planning approval now in place, we expect construction to start from later this year. On completion, the plant will form part of the Lower Hunter's water supply system for the future.

In line with our planning approvals, we are establishing a Community Consultative Committee to engage with community and key stakeholders during construction and early operation of the plant. To find out more about the Committee and express your interest in taking part, please visit hunterwater.com.au/desal. Expressions of interest close at 5pm Friday 25 October 2024.



Rainfall independent



Slows depletion of water storages during drought

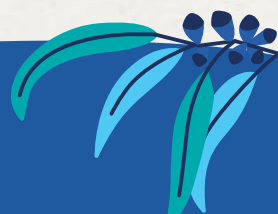


Improves diversity of our water supply



Flexible and responsive, we can ramp up and down as needed

Find out more hunterwater.com.au/desal



Belmont Desalination Plant

Frequently asked questions - September 2024



When will the desalination plant be built?

Work is expected to start from late 2024 and will take up to four years to complete, assuming the weather is fine and there are no major issues.

Work on infrastructure to support the plant is expected to start soon, including building two new water mains and upgrading existing reservoirs to integrate desalinated water into our network.

We will be in touch with nearby residents and businesses closer to when construction activities are taking place.

How was feedback from the recent public exhibition considered?

All feedback received during the January 2024 public exhibition of the Belmont Desalination Plant Modification Report has been considered and addressed in a [Submissions Report](#), which is available on the DPHI major projects portal at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>.

How much will the desalination plant cost?

We estimate that the cost to design and build the plant is \$530 million, including the plant itself and required network upgrades.

Our analysis has confirmed that a permanent facility remains the most cost-effective option to ensure we can support our communities during drought.

To fund the desalination plant, an annual increase of around \$90 on a typical household bill is required. The typical water and wastewater bill for the owner of a house is currently around \$1,340 per year. There will be no changes to customer bills before 1 July 2025.

How will I be kept informed during construction?

During construction our contractor will have a dedicated Community & Stakeholder Manager to help ensure nearby community and key stakeholders are kept up to date with construction activities.

We encourage interested parties and/or those with strong ties in the local community to put in an expression of interest to join our Community Consultative Committee. Find out more at hunterwater.com.au/desal.

Timeline



Contact us



hunterwater.com.au/desal



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