



Media Release  
**1 August, 2022**

## **Council working with ESCOSA over non-potable water supply**

Mount Barker District Council will assist the Glen Meadow Community Water Association to secure another entity to own and operate the scheme but has not accepted their offer for the council to take over their non-potable water assets.

The Michelmore Estate, east of Kondoparinga Road in Meadows, was established in 1991. At the time, the developer operated a groundwater scheme to supply the estate with non-potable water for household and garden purposes but not for human consumption.

The Glen Meadow Community Water Association was formed when the developer withdrew from the scheme in 2010. The Association is recognised as a water entity under the Water Industry Act and is regulated by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA).

Over recent years, the Association has approached the council to assist with the running of the scheme.

The council has previously advised the Association that it does not have an interest in taking over the private scheme but offered to support them with business, economic development and strategic procurement support in-kind to help them remain viable.

In March this year the council was advised that the Glen Meadow Community Water Association would no longer continue with the management and maintenance of the water assets and supply of water to the residents within the Michelmore Estate and offered to gift their water assets to Council.

Mount Barker District Council's General Manager Infrastructure, Phil Burton said that apart from the Meadows bore water scheme that was transferred to the Mount Barker Council during amalgamations over 20 years ago, Council does not own or operate any other groundwater schemes that supply water for domestic purposes.

“Council has not previously endorsed any strategic objectives to expand its services into groundwater supply and this offer from the Association is not consistent with the direction of our wastewater service which is focussed on the collection, treatment and disposal of treated wastewater as a critical service to the community,” Mr Burton said.

Since being approached by the community Association in March, council staff have talked with ESCOSA and the Water Security, Policy and Planning Branch of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to determine how an appropriate solution could be found for the continuation of non-potable water supply to the Michelmore Estate.

Both regulatory bodies supported an approach, with the council, to assist the Association to find another suitable entity to own and operate this scheme to maintain a reliable non-potable water supply to residents.

“It is our understanding that the Association will need to make decisions to facilitate a change of ownership and so it is up to the landholders in the estate to re-establish the management committee of the Association for an interim period whilst this process is undertaken,” Mr Burton said.

Properties in Meadows are required to source their own potable (drinking) water as they are not connected to any SA Water scheme. Many residents have rain water tanks for these purposes or purchase suitable quality water or water treatment devices.

“Council understands the importance of a reliable drinking water supply and recognises that in many areas this is a responsibility of the State Government under the auspices of SA Water,” Mayor Ferguson said,

“I will be writing to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Susan Close MP, to seek the State Government’s consideration of supplying the rapidly expanding Meadows community with an appropriate domestic water source.”

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