



TERRITORIES DIVISION / IOT BRANCH / IOT GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Fact Sheet

Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plant on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, West Island

March 2023

The project

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) has contracted Water Corporation to undertake the following project on Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) West Island:

- construct a new 200 kilolitre per day (kL/day) Seawater Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) plant.

To support the project, a water source beach bore drilling program was completed in November 2022 to feed the new SWRO plant. Ongoing water quality testing is being undertaken to inform the final design of the SWRO plant.

. The SWRO plant will replace the freshwater lens below the operational airfield, and ensure CKI West Island has a secure water source into the future. It is critical that residents and visitors to the islands have access to safe drinking water.

In March 2023, the Department referred the project to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for Parliamentary approval to proceed.

Water Corporation will deliver this project through their Indian Ocean Territories Service Delivery Arrangement with the Commonwealth, through the department. Water Corporation has been providing water and wastewater services to CKI communities since 2001.

The new SWRO plant will be located on Part Lot 100 Sydney Highway, CKI West Island, adjacent to the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant. This area is away from the main settlement on the island, and will not cause any visual or noise disturbances to the community through the construction period or during ongoing operations.

The department and Water Corporation are working together to ensure the community is kept informed at every stage of the project.

3D images of SWRO plant and site location on Part Lot 100 Sydney Highway, West Island

