

MEDIA RELEASE
SAVE OUR GULF COALITION
11Sept 2008.

**COMMUNITY GROUP WELCOMES SUSTAINABLE WATER REPORT – “WE NEED
COMMUNITY DEBATE ABOUT ADELAIDE’S WATER FUTURE”**

Community environment action group, **Save Our Gulf Coalition** today welcomed the **Report on Sustainable Water Options for Adelaide** released on Tuesday by Mark Parnell and called for proper public debate about Adelaide’s water future.

“For another year, Adelaide has let huge amounts of its winter rain run into stormwater drains and out to sea” said Peter Laffan, chairperson of **Save Our Gulf Coalition** which is campaigning against the desalination plant.

“We want to see Adelaide base its water strategy on exactly the comprehensive, sustainable and affordable options outlined in this report – particularly stormwater harvesting. The bonus is this also stops polluted water pouring into the Gulf and damaging sea grass and fish stocks. It’s a win-win situation - for Adelaide and for the environment. We don’t understand why the Government is ignoring this option and putting so much effort into an expensive, energy hungry desalination plant as its first option – especially when the desalination plant will add an estimated 1.85million tonnes of salt and other chemicals to the Gulf.”

“Adelaide should only look at desalination as a last resort, when all other options have been tried.”

“We are surprised at Kevin Foley’s response to this report. He claims that these options have been explored and rejected for cost and practical reasons.”

“All the scientists and engineers we have talked to have agreed that stormwater harvesting, managing demand for water, and water recycling are practical in Adelaide” said Peter Laffan. “They will be cheaper than desalinated water, and can produce far more water than the desalination plant and the River Murray combined. This latest report confirms this.”

“So we want to know who Mr Foley has been getting his advice from and ask him to share these details with the general public. It’s high time the community had a chance to hear the science and factual information behind decisions about our water future. We are the ones who have to pay for them, and who will have to live with the consequences for several generations.”

To give people a chance to hear this and air their own concerns about desalination and Adelaide’s water, **Save Our Gulf Coalition** is holding a **PUBLIC FORUM** on **Wednesday September 24th at Brighton High School, at 7.30pm.**

Three scientists and water experts will talk about the risks to Gulf St Vincent from the desalination plant, the other options for supplying Adelaide’s water and the costs involved.

“The audience will then be able to put their questions and concerns to a panel. This will be an important opportunity for the community to be better informed. And we call on the Government to encourage full debate about desalination and the other options” Peter Laffan said.

CONTACTS: