

# Media Release

## Save Our Gulf Coalition

7 Sept 08

### SAVE OUR GULF COALITION ORGANISES PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS ADELAIDE'S WATER FUTURE – WITH OR WITHOUT DESALINATION

#### DESALINATION – SOLUTION OR DISASTER?

A public forum at Brighton Secondary School, Spence Hall  
305 Brighton Rd, North Brighton

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 7.15 for 7.30 start**

Where will Adelaide's water come from in a future of global warming, increasing drought, and growing concern about the River Murray?

Increasingly the community, government and industry are concerned about this. The South Australian Government's solution so far is to commit to building a \$1.1billion desalination plant at Port Stanvac. But is this the only solution? Is it the best solution?

"It's certainly the most expensive solution" said **Save Our Gulf Coalition** spokesman Peter Laffan. "But it comes at great risk, to Gulf St Vincent, to our metropolitan beaches, and to the cost of our water. **Save Our Gulf Coalition** is very concerned at this, but is also concerned that the government seems to be ignoring other options, and also ignoring the expert scientific advice available in Adelaide on the risks to the Gulf, and on the other options – particularly the harvesting of storm and waste water."

"That's why we want as many people as possible to hear this information. The forum will hear information from a number of scientists and be able to put questions to a science and community panel. In particular it will hear about the difficulty of dispersing the concentrated brine from Port Stanvac in Gulf St Vincent, and the damage this is likely to do to marine life along the coast and to the quality and stability of our metropolitan beaches."

"We hope this will give concerned South Australian's the information they need to ask questions of their local members and Mr Rann's government about this project. It's also an opportunity for people to learn more in time to make submissions to the parliamentary enquiry of the Environment and Resources Development Committee, which is taking submissions up to October 3<sup>rd</sup>."

"We want to know if the government is committed to desalination regardless of the environmental risks? Is it looking at any other options? Can Mr Rann tell us how expensive our water and electricity will be if we have to rely on an energy intensive, expensive process like desalination? Before our money is committed we have the right to know the risks, the costs and the options."

Already, Salisbury Council has pioneered the use of wetland and water recycling to provide water, and Playford and Tea Tree Gully Councils are working with Salisbury Council on a comprehensive plan to waterproof northern Adelaide. Storm and waste water harvesting has the potential to provide more water than the desalination plant, at a lower cost. It will also help clean up the Gulf, by removing the polluted water that currently runs into it, and improve Adelaide's environment with a series of wetlands across the city.

"We invite everyone who is concerned about Adelaide's future water supply, about the cost of water and electricity and about open, science based planning for our State's future to join us at the forum."

**Save Our Gulf Coalition** is a community environment action group. It is not aligned with any political party.