



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Report shows water quality improvements in the Myponga Reservoir Catchment

A joint project between the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Myponga community has resulted in healthier watercourses in the catchments that supply the Myponga Reservoir.

The EPA and landholders within the catchments worked on the Myponga Watercourse Restoration Project from 2000 to 2007 to protect and enhance the quality of water supply to the Myponga Reservoir, and to increase the overall health of aquatic and riparian ecosystems.

The release of the final report details works that were undertaken with 40 landholders at 62 sites and focuses on excluding livestock from watercourses, and rehabilitating and stabilising the riparian zone.

Works undertaken over the seven-year period include:

- protection of 24km of watercourse through construction of 46km of livestock-excluding fences
- construction of 33 stock crossings to enable livestock to cross watercourses without walking through them
- establishment of off-stream watering sources at 22 sites
- revegetation of the riparian zone with native plants, better control of woody weeds and exotic trees, and construction of erosion control fences at certain sites within watercourses.

A recent assessment of the project has shown that water quality within the catchments has improved because of the fencing and revegetation works.

Water quality computer modelling indicates that the amount of sediment entering the watercourses will be reduced each year by 12% across the catchment and up to 54% per year in sub-catchments where works have been undertaken.

EPA Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said that the project's success is due to the willingness and commitment of each landholder who made changes that ultimately contributed to the overall result.

"This is a good sign for landholders, residents and the natural environment in the Myponga catchment, as well as consumers of water from the reservoir. Although the Myponga Watercourse Restoration Project has finished, water quality in the area will improve even more as a result of other programs being undertaken throughout the catchment."

The final report on the project, *Myponga Watercourse Restoration Project Final Report 2000-2007*, is available at www.epa.sa.gov.au/pub_water.html#mlr.

For further information on the Myponga Watercourse Restoration Project please contact

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