



## Mediaportal Report

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► **Underground storm-water storage in the pipeline**  
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# Underground storm-water storage in the pipeline

**Onkaparinga Council is proposing an extensive underground storage scheme to save some of the 45-50 gigalitres of water that flows out to sea each year.**

Council is exploring the option of establishing a city wide aquifer storage and recover scheme - a bore-field to store water for reuse in drier periods.

The water, which is currently flowing out into Gulf St Vincent, could be reused for greenfield development, open space, agriculture and viticulture.

The aquifer storage recovery project, at an estimated cost of \$115M, is expected to deliver approximately 10-15 gigalitres of reusable water, primarily for irrigation. This is the equivalent of filling AAMI stadium to the top of the goal posts up to 125 times.

The project is a key aspect of the second stage of Council's innovative water recycling and reuse scheme, Water Proofing the South.

Building on Stage 1 of the scheme, which focused on the reuse of reclaimed water, Stage 2 looks primarily at the

capture and treatment of stormwater.

Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg says having less available land for above-ground storage than the northern suburbs means the Council has had to focus more on recharging aquifers and drawing water.

"We also need to look at the best locations for bores and storage as a significant percentage of our underground aquifer is fractured rock," the Mayor says.

A consultant is exploring the project and will report back to Council in November clarifying volumes of capture and reuse, appropriate locations and delivery methods.

"We are hoping to attract significant Federal funding, following the successful planning and commencement of Stage 1 of Water Proofing the South," the Mayor says.

Water Proofing the South Stage 1 is a combined effort between

Council, SA Water and the privately-owned Willunga Basin Water Company. It received \$34.5M in Federal funding and aims to deliver 3800Megalitres of reclaimed water.

Mayor Rosenberg says Water Proofing the South is part of Council's water management strategy, Water Futures, which aims to create a sustainable water supply for the southern suburbs.

"At the moment, we have thousands of litres of water going out to sea through nine separate catchments," the Mayor says.

"The bore-field project would allow us to tap into some of that water and take advantage of good rainfall like we've had recently.

"However, we're also aware of the need to provide a balance between water required for environmental flows and demand for water in the City."