

BELMONT DESALINATION PLANT

We're building a desalination plant to help secure our region's water future. We've partnered with John Holland to deliver the construction of the plant.



Work progress

In May, we made strong progress across the project. We poured the second wall of the treated water storage tank, finished assembling the offshore intake dome, and reached more than 697 metres of tunnelling. We also installed the system that will help safely position the direct ocean intake structure on the seabed.

Onshore, the desalination plant is really starting to take shape. Structural, mechanical and electrical works are happening in several areas, including installing electrical connections between the reverse osmosis switch room and the main building.

Offshore, the tunnel boring machine is getting closer to breaking through into the intake caissons.

Upcoming work

Once the tunnel boring machine breaks through the caisson and is recovered, the dome roof will be installed on the direct ocean intake structure. Offshore equipment will be removed and the jack up barge will leave the area.

Work is continuing onshore, with mechanical installation underway in the main building and ongoing building services works. Across other site areas, crews are installing in ground services and carrying out soil testing, concrete works and steel erection. High voltage power upgrade works are also continuing along Ocean Park Road.

Our work schedule

Most activities will take place between **7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and Saturdays from 8am to 1pm**, weather permitting.

Some tasks, like concrete pours, installing large precast panels and structural steel, temporary water treatment plant operation, and roofing work may start earlier than 5am or finish after 6pm depending on weather conditions.

Crews will also be working outside standard hours to clean concrete surfaces and apply protective coatings. These activities need stable temperatures and clear work zones, so they're best done outside of standard construction hours.

High voltage power upgrade works will also continue throughout the night along Ocean Park Road.

Tunnelling will continue 24/7, and offshore works will run most days through to mid-2026. Tunnelling is designed to be very quiet, so we don't expect nearby residents to hear it. Marine works may be more noticeable at times, but we'll work to keep noise impacts low.

If we need to work outside standard hours and you're likely to be affected, we'll make sure you're informed ahead of time.



**JOHN
HOLLAND**

Scan the QR code
to register for digital
project updates:



How this will affect you

You may notice the following during our works:

- Heavy vehicle movements, including at night, for material deliveries, oversized equipment and tunnelling components, including concrete pipes for the intake pipeline.
- Helicopters transporting workers between Lake Macquarie Airport and the jack-up barge between 6am and 7pm, up to seven days a week. The busiest times are short periods during shift changes. Flights are limited to essential worker transfers only and kept to the minimum required for safe operations.
- Lighting needed for tunnelling and offshore marine work while these works are completed around the clock. We will direct floodlights downward to reduce light spill.

During 24-hour tunnelling work, we will reduce disruption by:

- Instructing all workers to access and leave the site quietly and obey the 30km/h speed limit.
- Turning off machinery when not in use.
- Scheduling the noisiest activities during the day, where possible.
- Using two-way radios for communication over large distances.
- Using non-tonal reversing alarms.
- Avoiding signalling by horns or whistles and avoiding dropping materials from height or slamming doors.

Our aim is to minimise inconvenience to you, and we thank you for your patience during this work.

Contact us

We are here to help and answer any questions you may have about our work.

If you have any issues or would like to provide feedback on how we are engaging with you, please call our community representative, Monique Browne on the toll-free number 1800 968 051 or email desal@hunterwater.com.au for more information on the Belmont Desalination Plant.



Project team members planting pigface and spinifex native plants as part of the dune revegetation efforts



A look into the intake shaft where the tunnelling is taking place onshore to push the pipe segments behind the MTBM

Belmont Desalination Plant Site Visit - Saturday 30 May 2026

Join us for a guided visit of the Belmont Desalination Plant. Come and learn more about the project, see progress on site and speak directly with the project team.

When: 9-11am Saturday 30 May 2026

Where: We'll meet at a central location in Belmont South. Details will be shared when your registration is confirmed.

Registrations are essential as numbers are limited. Registration close at 5pm Thursday 28 May 2026.

Scan the QR Code to register or call 1800 968 051 or email desal@hunterwater.com.au

