

# Lower Hunter Water Security Plan



The Lower Hunter Water Security Plan is a whole-of-government approach to ensuring the region has a resilient and sustainable water future that contributes to regional health and prosperity and is supported by the community. The plan outlines a program of actions to secure water for the Lower Hunter over the next 40 years.

## Walsh Point drought response desalination plant

**The drought management plan includes a drought response desalination plant at Walsh Point, at the eastern end of Kooragang Island, to further increase the region's supply from rainfall-independent water sources and to ensure minimum customer demands are met in a long and severe drought. Hunter Water would build this plant only if needed in drought.**

The Walsh Point site was selected following a multi-site analysis that compared the costs of the plant and associated infrastructure, power supply requirements, available land and surrounding land use, and environmental and community impacts.

Undertaking readiness activities for this drought response plant up-front will ensure this infrastructure can be delivered if and when it is needed. Up-front planning will reduce lead times and delay commencing construction of the plant as far into a drought as possible.

Readiness activities include securing a site for the plant and completing engineering feasibility and environmental assessments, as well as obtaining planning and funding approvals.

Planning activities will include site master planning and assessment of infrastructure delivery, and staging options for future desalination plants.

Readiness activities for a future desalination plant at Walsh Point also means that we are progressing an alternative permanent water supply source should one be needed in the future if another water supply action does not proceed.

### Key features

- Readiness activities will be undertaken so the desalination plant is ready to build in severe drought
- Desalination is a reliable water supply source that doesn't rely on rainfall
- Ensure we can meet our community's minimum water needs through a long and severe drought
- Up front planning will reduce lead times and delay commencing construction of the plant as far into a drought as possible.

