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# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, 21 August 2007

### **NEW S.A WATER SAVING ENOUGH TO SUPPLY 10,000 ADELAIDE HOMES**

A major South Australian manufacturing company is leading the charge in reducing its reliance on the State's precious water supply.

Osborne-based Penrice Soda Holdings announced today it had slashed its dependency on Adelaide's mains water by more than 65 per cent over the past 12 months.

It has cut its mains water usage by the equivalent of about 445 Olympic size swimming pools, or enough water to supply around 10,000 Adelaide households for a year - from about 1.5 Gigalitres to 0.5 Gigalitres a year.

The significant saving follows the recent opening of the Company's \$500,000 desalination plant, which draws salty bore water from an aquifer 200 metres below ground.

The plant's reverse osmosis system then removes all salt from the bore water, which is then used for the Company's manufacturing operations, replacing the mains water used previously.

ASX-listed Penrice - Australia's only manufacturer of soda ash and sodium bicarbonate – said today that the desalination plant had been so successful the Company was negotiating with the State Government to increase its allocation from the aquifer to supply 100 per cent of water at its Osborne manufacturing site.

"The massive reduction in our mains water reliance is a significant milestone for our Company," Penrice Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Guy Roberts, said today.

"Reducing our environmental footprint is important to Penrice's future," he said.

"For many years we have been one of the State's highest consumers of mains water, an issue we have been looking to address for some time.

"The nature of our business – the manufacturing of soda ash and sodium bicarbonate for the domestic and international markets – requires large volumes of water.

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“However, sustainable water management practices are imperative in today’s global environment, and our people have searched the globe looking at initiatives to reduce our reliance on this most precious of commodities.

“Water is scarce right across the whole country, and we all have a role to play in ensuring it is preserved as much as possible. Drinking water should ideally be used for drinking.

“As a Company, we are on a continual quest to reduce the environmental impact of our operations – and the desalination plant is evidence of that commitment.

“However, our work here is not done. Our long term targets are actually the same as any private household – reduce, reuse and recycle.”

Mr Roberts said the plant – which costs the Company about \$600,000 a year to run - had been approved by all the relevant Government bodies, including the Environmental Protection Authority.

He said the Company had engaged leading Australian water consultants to ensure that the plant was not having any detrimental effects on the aquifer supply.

### **About Penrice**

Penrice is the only manufacturer of soda ash and sodium bicarbonate in Australia. It exports to more than 15 countries and employs about 300 people.

Its chemicals business, based at Osborne, supplies two key industrial chemicals. Soda ash is a vital ingredient in products ranging from glass containers (especially wine and beer bottles), and flat glass for building and construction, to washing powder and the mining industry.

Sodium bicarbonate is used in applications as diverse as food and pharmaceuticals, medical and personal care products and stock feed.

The Company also owns and operates the largest marble and limestone mine in Australia, situated at Angaston, in the Barossa Valley, South Australia. The Mine provides a critical, economical supply of limestone to the Company’s production of soda ash and sodium bicarbonate at its plant at Osborne.

The quarry and mineral business sells products from the mine which are used for a variety of applications including cement and lime, civil construction, roads, landfill, glass, mineral processing, agriculture, stockfeed and landscaping.

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