

SALT CONCENTRATION OF LOCAL WATER

Recent water and coral sampling conducted by Curtin University has found the sea water off the Ashburton Salt site, near Onslow has a higher concentration of salt than expected. This means that the Ashburton Salt project is projected to produce more product (sodium chloride) than originally estimated on the same footprint.

What was studied

1. Researchers from Curtin University studied water and coral samples from coastal waters south of Onslow.
2. By analysing the chemicals in coral samples and comparing those with ocean water samples, researchers obtained a geochemical record of the local seawater temperature, salinity and sediment content spanning several decades.
3. The results found that the seawater salinity adjacent to the Ashburton Salt site consistently had a higher content of salt than originally estimated.

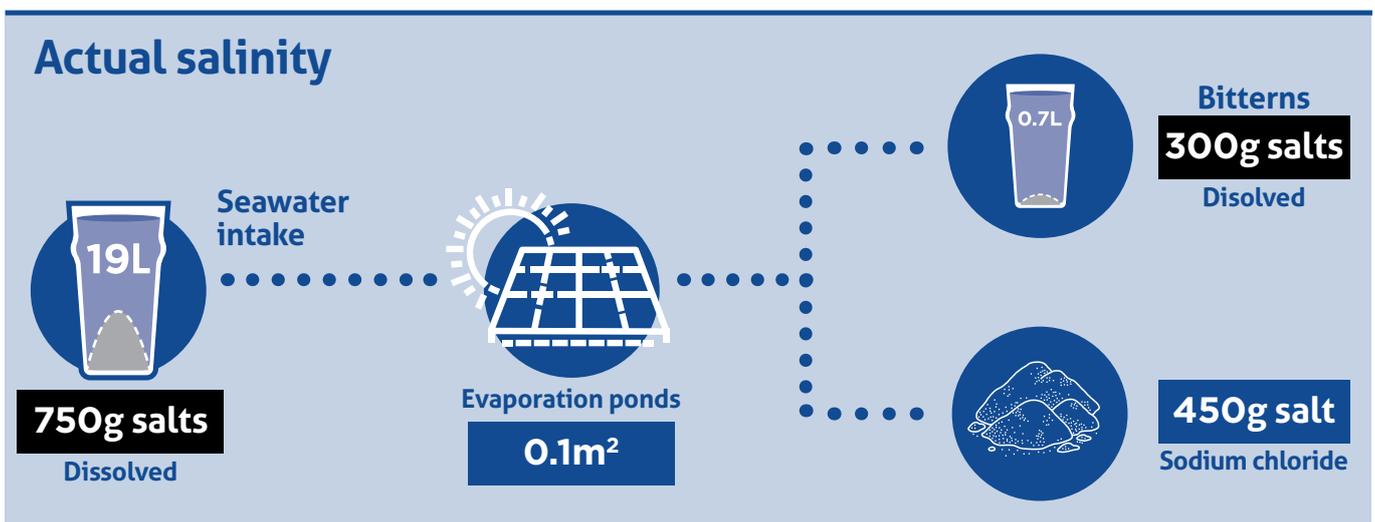
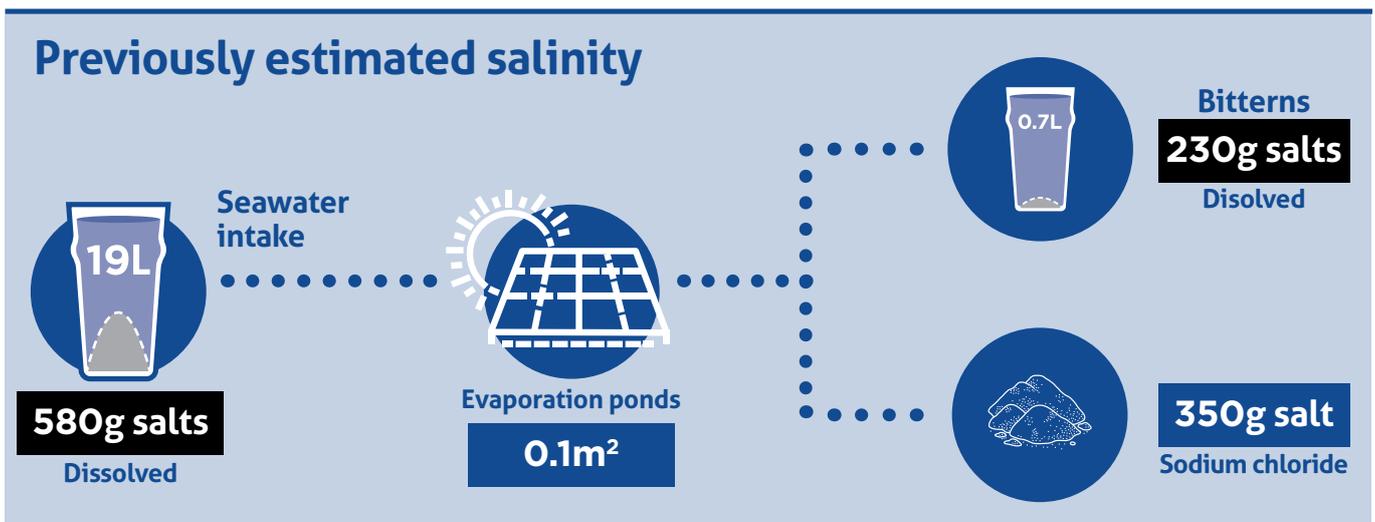
What this means for Ashburton Salt

1. The project plans have not changed.
2. The amount of water required and the size of evaporation ponds are the same as originally anticipated. The project will create the same volume of bitterns.
3. The output of sodium chloride produced will be higher due to the saltier water. We now estimate the project will produce 4.5mtpa of salt.
4. Bitterns will have a marginally higher concentration of salts. However, the requirements for bitterns to be discharged in a way which minimises impact to the environment remains the same as originally planned.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Expected salt and waste to be produced from a 19L sample of seawater
– original estimate versus actual site data



Date of fact sheet review
September 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION: