

# AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE

Last week, the Victorian Desalination Project's Community Liaison Group toured the desalination plant site.

The progress that has been made in less than six months is quite extraordinary.

Bulk earthworks are almost 90% complete and the eight dunes which will surround the plant are taking shape, ranging between six and 12 metres in height.

Foundations for the reverse osmosis plant are well underway, in preparation for erection of the structural steel frame. This will be the first 'above ground' structure and a major milestone for the project.

There are now more than 450 workers on the plant site, which includes a strong contingent of locals from Bass Coast and Cardinia shires and the City of Casey.

Thiess Degrémont is thrilled to have them on the construction team, joining in on this vital project and helping deliver positive local benefits.

On the pipeline and power alignment, work has progressed rapidly since the first pipe section was laid near Berwick last month.

More than 42 kilometres of site preparation has now been completed, including clear and grade works and installation of safety fencing along the temporary easement.

In addition, more than a kilometre of pipe has been laid, including two road crossings at Pound Road in Berwick.

This major task involved closing Pound Road temporarily, digging a four metre wide trench, laying the pipe and then backfilling the trench and reinstating the road.

This activity is already complete and I'd like to thank the neighbouring residents for their patience and cooperation throughout the works.

As pipe laying continues to ramp up over the coming months, so will the number of pipeline construction workers travelling to work, so extra steps are being taken to minimise traffic impacts in local towns.

An agreement has been reached with Lang Lang Showgrounds to provide parking for pipeline workers. Workers will park at the showgrounds and travel to work by bus, helping to minimise traffic impacts on local roads.

In exchange, our construction contractors will be upgrading the showgrounds' main entry, internal roads and carpark. This is a terrific win/win initiative, and similar arrangements are currently being discussed in other towns along the pipeline alignment.

In my next column, we'll include some more of the latest photography of site so you can see just how far work has progressed.

Regards



**Chris Herbert** CEO, AquaSure

## **QUESTION:**

What colour will the roof of the desalination plant be? Will it reflect sunlight?

## **ANSWER:**

To minimise visual impacts of the plant, use of non-reflective roof materials is a performance requirement for the project.

To meet this requirement, the desalination plant roof will be predominantly a 'living roof', completely covered with indigenous flora. The roof will help blend the plant into the natural landscape, provide acoustic protection, corrosion resistance, thermal control and reduced maintenance.

A prototype roof has been growing successfully in Gippsland since February 2009.

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