

AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE



Since my last update, we've achieved more important milestones on the Victorian Desalination Project.

The box cut is nearly complete, which will provide a launching pad for two tunnel boring machines (TBMs), the first of which has arrived from Germany.



The box cut is nearing completion, ready for tunnelling

Tunnel boring has been used on construction projects for more than 150 years and has proven to be a safe and environmentally sound method of tunnelling.

These amazing machines will operate 15–20 metres underground, carving the seawater intake and outlet tunnels, while Williamsons Beach remains open for public enjoyment.

The TBMs must be assembled and tested before they're ready to launch but most importantly, they need a name!

Naming of TBMs is a time honoured tradition throughout the world and we are inviting primary school students of Bass Coast Shire to help us with this task.

Thiess Degrémont has launched a Tunnel Boring Naming Competition with prizes for the best suggestions, as well as the honour of having the winning name embossed on the TBMs before they begin their journey underground.

Back above ground, more than 300 tonnes of structural steel frame is now in place for the reverse osmosis building and roofing will soon begin.

Further north, great progress is being made on the pipe and power corridor.



More than 300 tonnes of structural steel has been erected

Construction crews have now completed almost 60km of clear and grade activity, erected more than 70km of temporary fencing and constructed more than 35km of haul roads.

More than 2100 sections of pipe have been delivered and around 13km of pipe has been laid in the ground.



More than 60km of clear and grade is now complete, ready for pipe laying

Six road crossings have been completed at Cardinia Road, Hobson Road, McCormacks Road, Pound Road (twice) and Thompson Road.

Construction of the booster pump station at Clyde North is also underway, designed to maintain sufficient pressure to keep the water moving on its 84km journey from the desalination plant to Cardinia Reservoir.

The Community Liaison Group continues to be a very important forum for us to report on the project and respond to questions.

At the April meeting, it was good to hear comments from local MP Ken Smith that concerns about housing had been substantially addressed.

Mr Smith also enquired about local employment.

Of the 14,500 applications we received for employment on the project, around 10% were from locals. We estimate that around 33% of the labourers and tradesmen that have been employed to date are local and around 50% are from within the broader Gippsland area.

In closing, AquaSure and Thiess Degrémont were pleased to attend a recent fundraising dinner for the Bass Coast Community Foundation.

We believe very strongly in the Foundation which is run by local people, for local people. Indeed, it is our key partnership for providing support to community activities.

It was one of three community foundations which received \$100,000 last year as part of the Victorian Government's \$5.3 million Community Foundations Initiative.

The groups were challenged to raise another \$100,000 on their own – if they managed to do so within 12 months, they would be eligible for another \$200,000 from the Government.

AquaSure and Thiess Degrémont were honoured to assist the Foundation's fundraising efforts with a donation of \$80,000 at the end of last year.

At dinner the other night, the Foundation was again overwhelmed with the generosity of the local community, taking them well beyond their fundraising goal and making them eligible for the additional grant.

My congratulations to everyone involved.

Chris Herbert CEO, AquaSure

Q&A

The matter of waste from the plant has been the subject of discussion lately.

We are not yet in a position to answer these questions as we have first to obtain all appropriate regulatory approvals.

The matter of disposal of waste from the plant did come up at the last meeting of the Community Liaison Group (30 April).

The Department of Sustainability and Environment's Capital Projects Division General Manager, Peter Sammut, advised that the EPA has indicated that it would assess the classification of the waste once the final composition is known, and as part of the Discharge Licence.

He explained that waste from similar plants elsewhere in Australia had been classified as general waste and sent to landfill.

**WATER NOW
AND FOR THE FUTURE.
FOR SURE.**

www.aquasure.com.au