

# AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE



As readers will be aware, the desalination plant was originally due to be complete and capable of producing its first supplies of water this week.

While the project was conceived as an emergency response to the worst drought in Victoria's history, ironically the project has ended up being constructed through some of the wettest weather in Victoria's history.

Despite this, we finish the year with the construction team having worked more than 13 million man hours and the project around 84% complete.

Construction work on the plant site is well advanced and civil construction crews are scaling down. A number of key project elements have already been completed.

The significant task of commissioning is now ahead of us and includes commissioning of the marine structures and the underground tunnels, which will take place early next year.

Small valves will be opened on the four marine structures, allowing seawater to flow slowly in to fill the tunnels. This is a very slow, controlled process, with each tunnel taking around 24 hours to fill.

The work will involve divers and a boat fitted with a crane, which you may notice in position just off Williamsons Beach over the coming weeks.

Commissioning of the marine structures and the underground tunnels is just one piece of the commissioning 'jigsaw' and does not mean that the plant is operating.

On the pipeline and power corridor, we are on the home stretch.

Laying of the transfer pipeline and power cable is now complete, including 45 road and 21 waterway crossings and five 'pipe jack' crossings.

Hydrotesting of the pipeline is also complete and the first sections of underground power cable have been safely and successfully energised, or made 'live'.

With the pipeline and power cable assets coming on line, it is absolutely essential for landowners and all members of the community to 'Dial Before You Dig' on 1100 before undertaking any work in the area of the easement.

On other matters, I reported in my last column that pipeline crews are now working to remove bulk spoil stockpiles and haulage road material from the pipeline easement.

This work is progressing well and discussions are underway with Bass Coast Shire Council to finalise the process for permanent reinstatement of local roads.

Meanwhile, it remains the responsibility of our pipeline contractors to maintain all other local roads that are still being used as temporary haulage routes, both for the safety of the local community and our own construction personnel that use them.

We continue to encourage members of the community to report any maintenance concerns. Over the past month, repair work has been carried out on Gurdies-St Helier Road, Stewart Road, The Shuntoff, McGraths Road and Bass Road.

Work will also be carried out on Mouth of Powlett Road and Turnbull-Woolamai Road before Christmas.

Pipeline construction crews have also commenced reinstatement of properties, with sub-soil reinstatement, agricultural treatments and topsoil spreading now underway in various locations.

Pipe and power crews will stop for Christmas between 23 December and 9 January. All roads will be inspected and any necessary repairs attended to before the break.

At the desalination plant site, a small crew will continue essential works over Christmas, with the full workforce returning progressively from 3 January 2012.

In closing, I would like to extend my very best wishes to you and your family for a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Chris Herbert** CEO, AquaSure

The Community Information Centre will be open regularly over Christmas, screening our latest video update, which can also be viewed on our website.

**As of 16 January 2012, the Centre will be open from 9.30am-4.30pm Wednesday to Friday.**

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FOR SURE.**

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