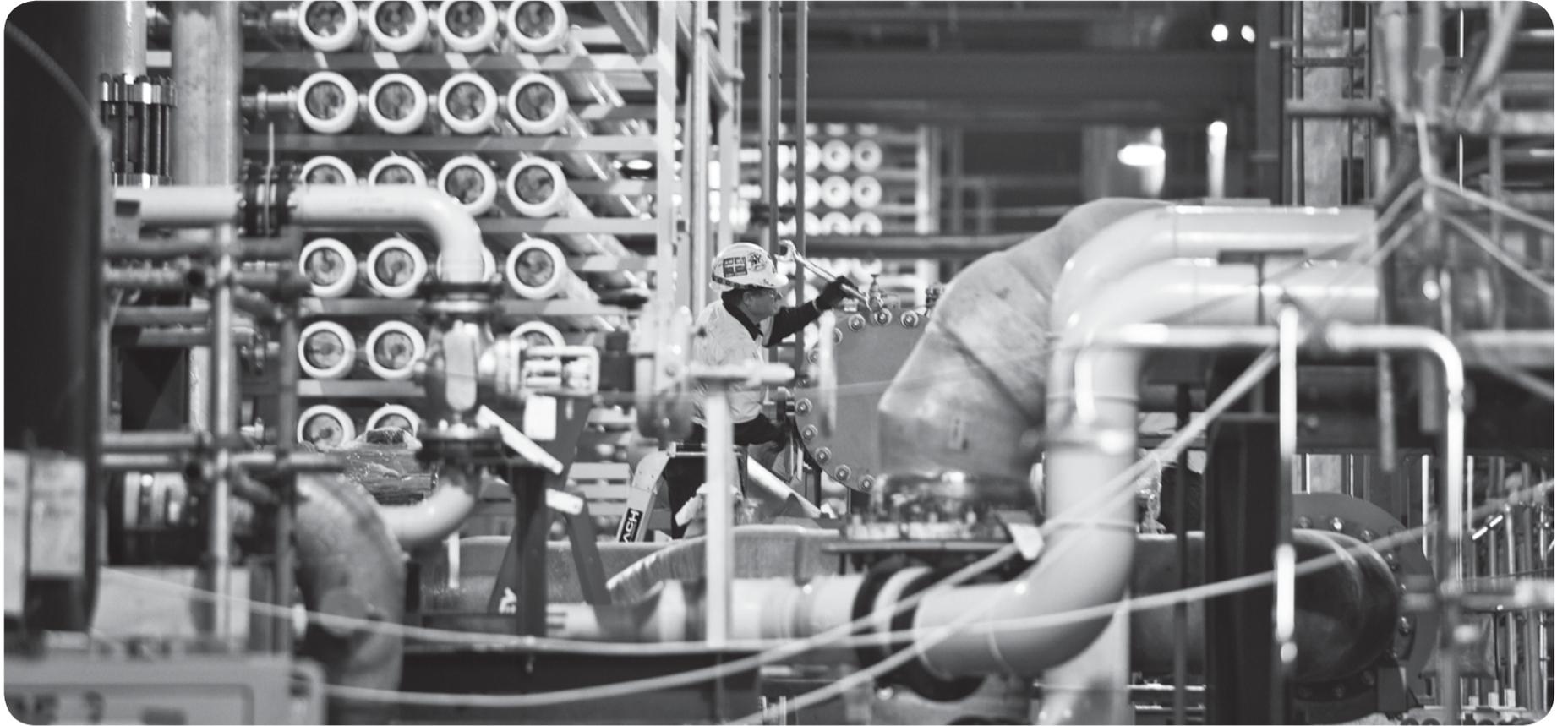


AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE



I would like to begin this column by acknowledging the people that helped save the life of a worker at the plant recently.

The man collapsed and was revived by nearby employees and the site's own Red Alert team. He received further treatment from Ambulance Victoria paramedics and was then airlifted to hospital.

He is now recovering well.

The desalination plant site is equipped with its own 24-hour emergency service crew and rescue vehicle, its own doctor, onsite clinic and there are more than 415 employees with advanced level 3 first aid training working across the site.

I have spoken regularly in the past about the project's excellent safety record and this is just another example of the efforts that have been invested to ensure people return home safe and well from work each day.

Next, I would like to address some letters that have appeared in local papers recently, suggesting that solid waste from the desalination plant will be disposed of in the ocean.

This is not correct.

The desalination process will generate three streams – the drinking water produced during the reverse osmosis process, seawater concentrate or 'brine,' which is returned to the sea, and solid waste.

Once the plant starts producing solid waste, it will be classified by the EPA. This classification will determine at which landfill facility the waste can be disposed. Waste from similar plants in Australia has been classified as general waste and sent to landfill.

The fact is the environmental performance requirements for the plant, including information about waste disposal and monitoring of marine impacts, have been on the public record for some time.

EPA requirements will be clearly stated in the licence issued for the operation of the plant.

Quite categorically, the plant will be operated in accordance with the environment performance requirements stated in the contract with the Government, and in accordance with the EPA licence.

Out on the pipe and power easement, construction work is complete and crews are now focused on the reinstatement of local roads and properties.

Since pipeline crews returned to work after the Christmas break, temporary maintenance work has been carried out on Gurdies-St Helliers Road, Turnbull-Woolamai Road and Stewart Road. Peacock Road has also been graded.

In recent columns, I reported that pipeline crews would continue to use local roads while they worked to remove bulk spoil stockpiles from their work sites.

Most of this spoil has now been removed, so local residents will soon begin to notice the amount of heavy truck traffic on their roads progressively decreasing.

In other good news, agreement has been reached with Bass Coast Shire Council over the process for permanent road reinstatement, and this work will commence in the coming weeks.

I would like to express my thanks to local road users once again, for bearing with us and sharing their roads during the construction phase.

Reinstatement of the easement has also commenced. Members of the community may have noticed agricultural treatments and topsoil spreading underway in various locations.

Crews planned to sow pasture in autumn, when seasonal conditions are most favourable. However, a stretch of good weather allowed pasture to be sown on a number of properties prior to Christmas and I am pleased to report it is thriving.

In closing, I would like to remind readers about the Serenade at Sunset event coming up on Saturday 11 February in Corinella.

The event is being presented by the Bass Valley Music Festival and will feature a range of performances by local artists and the internationally renowned "Pot Pourri" ensemble.

AquaSure is very proud to sponsor this popular event, in cooperation with the Bass Coast Community Foundation, to reflect our wish to support the development of young talent from the region.

Chris Herbert CEO, AquaSure

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