

VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

MEDIA RELEASE



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DESAL TUNNELS FULL

Victoria's new desalination plant is a step closer to completion, with its two underground tunnels successfully filled with seawater.

Serena Middleton, spokesperson for Thiess Degrémont, said it was a great milestone for the project.

"We're another step closer to producing drinking water, and that's what we're all here for. This is an exciting step forward," she said.

To fill the tunnels, a team of divers opened small valves on the marine structures that have been installed on the seabed. This allowed seawater to flow slowly into the tunnels. Temporary water plugs are now being removed and replaced with permanent steel plates.

Ms Middleton explained that even though the tunnels are full of seawater, they would not start operating until other parts of the desalination plant have been commissioned.

"Tunnel filling is just one of many activities that must be completed as part of the commissioning of the plant," she said.

"Commissioning involves more than 200,000 tests and will take around nine months in total to complete," she said. "As these tests are completed, we will start bringing more and more parts of the plant on line."

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued an approval for the commissioning activities, under Section 30A of the Environment Protection Act 1970.

The approval outlines the conditions under which commissioning activities must be carried out. It can be viewed on the EPA's website.

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Media enquiries

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About AquaSure

AquaSure has been contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project. AquaSure brings together leaders in the fields of infrastructure design, construction, and finance.

About Thiess Degrémont

Thiess Degrémont is AquaSure's design and construct contractor, responsible for delivering Australia's largest desalination plant. Thiess Degrémont is a joint venture between Thiess, one of Australia's largest and most trusted construction and services companies, and Degrémont, world water treatment specialist and a key player in sustainable water development.