

AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE

I know that there is very widespread interest in the jobs that will be available in building the desalination plant. We have been encouraging all interested people to register and have been delighted at the number and high standard of local people who have already registered for possible employment.

Today's paper features a job advertisement from Thiess Degrémont, calling for the first labour and trades to work on the desalination plant site.

Thiess Degrémont is seeking construction labourers, carpenters and other trades and is particularly keen to hear from local applicants. If you're interested in helping us deliver this landmark project, please visit our website and apply now.

If your trade is not called for now, rest assured that many more labour and trades jobs will become available as the project progresses next year. Keep an eye on our website for future opportunities or subscribe to "Job Alerts" online to ensure you are advised of future vacancies.

Speaking of construction, in addition to the continuation of earthworks at the desalination plant site, the next few weeks will see early works begin on the transfer pipeline and underground power easement.

Temporary fencing, tree removal and tree trimming will soon begin, starting just south of Cranbourne and progressing towards the Wonthaggi plant site. A dedicated landholder liaison team is working with property owners to discuss fencing and clearing works and to ensure that any impacts to properties are minimised.

As mentioned in my last column, marine research work is underway to help us build a more detailed understanding of the local marine environment and inform the final design of the marine structures.

This work will ramp up over the coming weeks, with the commencement of our baseline biological and water quality monitoring program.

This program is subject to Ministerial approval and is being developed in consultation with the EPA and DSE Biodiversity. Activities will include monitoring and mapping of marine habitats and communities. We will also be looking at the water column to record marine life such as larvae and plankton.

There are two important developments in our communications activities.

Since our last update, the first meeting of the Victorian Desalination Project Community Liaison Group (CLG) was hosted in Wonthaggi.

The CLG, established by the Government, brings together representatives from local communities, representatives from Bass Coast, Cardinia and Casey Councils, the DSE, AquaSure and Thiess Degrémont to ensure community issues are heard and addressed and the community is kept informed throughout the construction phase of the project.

Judging from the first meeting, the CLG is set to be a very productive working group.

Also, the Desalination Project Information Office at 1 McBride Street in Wonthaggi has extended its operating hours. The office will now be open from Tuesday to Friday 9.30am–4.30pm and Saturday 9am–12pm.

The office will be moving to a new, easier-access location in the near future. We are also working on a new mobile facility to visit community events and groups in the region. Keep an eye out for these new facilities in the months ahead.

Regards



Chris Herbert
CEO, AquaSure

X FICTION

The desalination plant will only supply water to Melbourne.

✓ FACT

Seven water delivery points will be constructed along the pipeline, capable of supplying water to Melbourne, South Gippsland and Western Port towns.

The new connection points will allow provision of desalinated water, or if the plant was not running, rainwater from Cardinia Reservoir, to flow to customers of South East Water, South Gippsland Water and Westernport Water.

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FOR SURE.**

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