

AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE

Since my last column, the desalination plant site has become a hive of activity, with earthworks now officially underway.

Water Minister Tim Holding visited the plant site last week to inspect progress and meet our design and construct contractor, Thiess Degrémont. Minister Holding was pleased to find that the works had commenced on time and were progressing well.

More than 1.1 million cubic metres of earth will be excavated from the construction site for the new desalination plant. This will serve to 'drop' the plant site by around five metres, allowing the plant to be tucked into the landscape and reducing the amount of energy needed to lift seawater into the plant.

Excavated spoil is being kept on site and used to construct a series of dunes to reduce noise and visual impacts.

Good progress has also been made on excavating the new freshwater wetlands, part of the 225 hectare coastal regeneration project that will be undertaken on the site – the largest of its kind in Victorian history.

There is no doubt it is a challenging program to deliver water supplies by the end of 2011, but we have committed to achieving this deadline and we have the best people in the business on our team to ensure we get there.

As work begins to ramp up, so too does local interest in jobs on the project. Over the coming weeks, the

first labour and trade roles will be advertised and we'll be calling for concreters, specialised form workers, pipe-layers, steel fixers, labourers and other workforce positions.

More jobs will continue to become available over the coming months. If you're interested in joining us, be sure to register on our website www.aquasure.com.au or keep an eye on the local papers for job ads.

In addition to direct employment by Thiess Degrémont, there are also a number of subcontractors involved with the project who will conduct their own recruitment processes and provide more opportunities for local employment.

Morwell-based company RTL was recently awarded the earthworks subcontract for the plant site while on the pipeline, a number of local suppliers are being engaged to provide fencing and other equipment for construction of easements.

This is another demonstration of our strong preference for local suppliers wherever possible, ensuring the economic and employment benefits associated with the project stay within the region.

On a final note, our team had a wonderful night at the Bass Coast Shire Council's 6th Annual Mayoral Charity Ball recently.

The night is the biggest annual fundraising event for the Bass Coast Community Foundation, whose work we have been following for quite some time now.

We have been most impressed not only by the range of projects the Foundation delivers, but also the way they go about it. They have a great ability to harness local support and enthusiasm and turn it into projects that create meaningful change.

The Bass Coast Community Foundation was one of three community foundations who recently received \$100,000 as part of the Victorian Government's \$5.3 million Community Foundations Initiative.

The three foundations were challenged to raise another \$100,000 on their own – if they can do so within 12 months, they are eligible for a further \$200,000 from the Government.

AquaSure is one of the newest members of the Bass Coast community, we'll be neighbours for the next 30 years and so just like you, we're keen to see the community develop in ways that are beneficial and meaningful.

For this reason, AquaSure and Thiess Degrémont were thrilled to be able to contribute \$80,000 to assist the fundraising effort and we congratulate all involved in the Foundation on the many great things they've achieved in the community to date.

Regards



Chris Herbert
CEO, AquaSure

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