
AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE

Since my last column, a great deal of work has been going on to set up the framework for successful delivery of the Victorian Desalination Project.

On September 2, the desalination project reached financial close. This means that all contractual and financial matters between AquaSure and the Victorian Government are now complete, that AquaSure is a legal entity and major works can begin.

Our construction contractor, Thiess Degrémont, also awarded its first major supply contract. Tyco Water Melbourne, based in Somerton, was awarded a \$150 million contract for the manufacture of pipes for the 84km transfer pipeline, creating 50 new jobs and securing 50 others.

BlueScope Steel will provide the majority of steel for the pipes, supporting around 900 jobs at its Hastings facility.

We were thrilled to be able to award the contract to a Victorian manufacturer. We want to source locally wherever we can.

While we understand that some members of the community don't agree with the project in principle and feel it is wrong for local suppliers to offer their services to us, there are many other local businesses and individuals – hundreds, in fact – who have contacted us and are keen to play a part in this landmark project.

In my view, they deserve every support and encouragement for wanting to keep jobs and dollars in the local community.

On the pipe and powerline, we are now actively out in the field, our priority being to meet with every directly affected landowner as quickly as possible.

For many, the land is their business and our team is working hard to understand the needs of individual landowners and what we can do to minimise disruption. We are also looking carefully to determine what needs to be done to effectively manage biosecurity during construction.

On the housing front, we continue to receive many enquiries from holiday home owners offering rental properties for use.

Discussions are continuing with Bass Coast Shire Council and real estate agents to agree on a Housing Accord that will aim to minimise impacts on long-term housing availability and affordability, while connecting our workforce with suitable accommodation in the area. We hope to have the details finalised soon.

We are aiming to commence earthworks on the site over the coming weeks and I will look forward to telling you more about that in my next column.

On a final note, I want to thank you for the letters I've received over the past weeks. We've received some very warm and welcoming comments about our design and our approach to the project, and we are most grateful for that.

Regards



Chris Herbert
CEO, AquaSure

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