

MEDIA RELEASE

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DESALINATION COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED

New community representatives will be welcomed to the upcoming meeting of the Victorian Desalination Project Community Liaison Group (CLG).

Former Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Neville Goodwin, and current Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Cardinia Branch President, Ian Anderson, will represent the communities of Bass Coast and Cardinia Shires respectively.

AquaSure's new Chair, Chloe Munro, will also attend CLG meetings.

"DSE is committed to consultation through the Community Liaison Group," DSE Victorian Desalination Project spokesperson Meeka Bailey said.

"The involvement of AquaSure Chair Chloe Munro and community representatives Neville Goodwin and Ian Anderson signals a new phase of community engagement.

"Mr Goodwin and Mr Anderson have strong local networks, extensive experience with similar committees and the communication skills to ensure community issues are well represented.

"The community representatives will work with DSE, AquaSure and councils to ensure community issues are considered and communities are informed at every stage.

"Ongoing consultation programs have been a key focus for DSE throughout the planning and tendering phases of the project over the past two years and the CLG is just one way consultation will continue through the construction phase."

AquaSure has been working closely with communities and councils and will join the CLG with its design and construction contractor Thiess Degrémont.

The CLG emerges from the Council Liaison Group which has met since the project began. DSE will provide administration support to the CLG which will be run by an independent Chair, John Nicol.

Mr Goodwin offers extensive experience as a former Mayor of Bass Coast Shire and active member of groups such as Rotary.

"There are real opportunities in terms of jobs, contracts and economic activity. Equally, I want to ensure that any concerns communities have are raised, discussed and properly dealt with," Mr Goodwin said.

"I want to ensure the Bass Coast Shire benefits as much as possible from the desalination project through good communication."

Mr Anderson, a Nar Nar Goon dairyfarmer, also has a long history of working with community groups such as the VFF and representing farmers' interests on a range of committees.

"I am very familiar with the area where the easement will run from Berwick to Koo Wee Rup and the communities involved," Mr Anderson said.

“I believe good relationships and communication will help the desalination project during the delivery phase.”

Community members can contact Mr Goodwin on 5657 7245 or 0439 852 779 or Goodwin@aussiebroadband.com.au or Mr Anderson on 5942 5594 or 0427 991 921 or anviewi@dcsi.net.au.