



30 November 2012

### **VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT ACHIEVES COMMERCIAL ACCEPTANCE**

AquaSure announced today that the Victorian Desalination Plant was now operating at full capacity and had achieved "Commercial Acceptance" one of the final contractual milestones for the project.

Chris Herbert, CEO, AquaSure confirmed that all three 50GL streams of the plant had been fully commissioned and that the plant was successfully operating at its full capacity, producing 450,000m<sup>3</sup> of high quality drinking water per day.

Mr Herbert said that a seamless commissioning phase for the project had provided this great result. "As a state asset for the long term this plant required a 50 year design life, with many assets having a 100 year life. This requirement resulted in an enormous investment in quality assurance. This investment and effort has paid off and resulted in an extremely efficient and successful commissioning phase", he said.

Mr Herbert estimated that the wet commissioning of the plant had taken around half the time of any comparable project.

"This achievement is testimony to the world class experience and professionalism of Thiess and Degremont, and they must be congratulated for such an outstanding outcome", Mr Herbert said.

The performance of the plant is exceptional and the high quality of the water it produces complements the standard of drinking water that Melburnians have come to expect.

The plant will now undergo reliability testing finalisation (RTF), which requires the plant to run at full capacity continuously for 30 consecutive days. During this time the plant will continue to produce around 450,000m<sup>3</sup> per day. The water that is produced will flow into Cardinia Reservoir.

Once RTF has been completed, water production will cease and the plant will be put into standby mode.

In standby mode the full complement of the operations and maintenance team (52) will ensure that the plant remains ready to deliver water on demand to meet the needs of the people of Victoria, a resource that will be valued in times of future drought.

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For further information:

Louisa McPhee  
AquaSure Communications Senior Advisor  
T: 03 98650115  
M: 0425754804