

More desal houses leased

The current number of properties leased has risen to 70 out of 420 that have been listed to date. There are currently 350 vacant properties available for rent.

The average weekly rental for March has increased from \$439 at the end of Feb to \$460. The average rental price listed for new properties is over \$500 but the majority of properties being sourced/leased are between \$300 and \$450. There are still some very good properties available in this range.

There is more interest in Surf Beach, Smiths Beach and Cowes properties due to a lower rental price for a higher standard of property.

The number of properties leased in March has dropped considerably. Some agents and landlords are seeing the need to reassess property prices to meet the market.

Thiess Degremont expects a steady influx of employees in early May with a forecasted increase of workforce numbers in June/July.

Website latest data

In March the desal housing website was viewed 3,216 times. The average view per page was around a minute.

Most of these views have come from within Victoria. The next most popular region viewing the website is Queensland, followed by New South Wales and then Western Australia.

There have been visits by people from Germany, New Zealand and the United States!



Above: The latest aerial photograph of the site.

Major engineering works start at site

Since our last update a number of significant changes have occurred on the plant site. Thiess Degremont has started erecting the 2,500 tonne structural steel frame for the reverse osmosis building.

Earthworks are nearing completion and foundations are continuing. The box cut which provides access for tunnelling machines is expected to be finished by the end of the month.

On the pipeline and power alignment, around 50km kilometres of site preparation has now been completed and more than 7.5km of pipe has been laid.

A number of road crossings have been completed, including a major crossing of Cardinia Road in Cardinia.

There are now just over 600 people on the plant site, which includes management staff, subcontractors, labourers and tradesmen. It is anticipated that another 50 people will start work during April, a combination of steel fixers, concreters, carpenters and the first mechanical fitters and electricians.

Recruitment will continue steadily with peak workforce of 1200 at the plant site. This is expected by November 2010.

**Don't
forget**

Agents, please email housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au when a property is leased.

This will help us keep the database up to date and useful for future renters.