

Desalination Project: Works Update



Inside the reverse osmosis building

The marine and tunnel components of the project are now finished, and civil and structural work at the plant site is also nearing completion.

With the project moving towards completion, the first civil workers were made redundant from the plant site last month. Like all construction projects, this project provides short term work opportunities and as the project moves through various stages of completion, more than 3,000 people will eventually be made redundant.

Recruitment is still underway for trades that are still required on site, like mechanical fitters and electricians. This will see worker numbers remain constant at the plant site for now.

Work has also begun on the pre-commissioning tests and checks

required before the different components of the desalination plant can come together as one.

On the pipe and power alignment, laying of the transfer pipeline is almost 95% complete but before it can begin operating, the pipeline must pass a 'hydrotest' - a standard quality test carried out on gas and water pipelines all over the world.

Planning for permanent reinstatement of local roads has also begun. As sections of the pipeline are completed and local roads are no longer required by the project, they will be progressively reinstated to their pre-existing condition and responsibility for their maintenance handed back to the relevant local council.

Property and website news

Approximately 56 properties were leased during the May-June period. This was an increase from March/April and brings the total number of properties let to 564. In contrast, there was a sharp decrease in the number of new listings with approximately five additional properties made available during the last two months.

The average asking price for properties let during the period was \$430 per week – a slight increase on the March/April average of \$424 per week. At the end of June, 102 Housing Accord properties were vacant. Of those, 41 per cent were priced at less than \$400 per week; 39 per cent priced between \$400 and \$500 per week; while 20 per cent were asking more than \$500 per week.

Website traffic increased during May with 1,133 page visits. This decreased to 844 in June, resulting in average of 988 over the two month period and an overall increase from the March/April period. The majority of interest continued to originate from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, with fewer visits from Perth, Adelaide, Devonport and Morwell.

Feedback ...

The 'Accord News' is a bi-monthly e-bulletin. The Community Strengthening Team welcomes contributions from Accord members. Contributions for the September edition are due **6 September 2011**. Contact Community Strengthening on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au