

Construction almost complete



Thiess Degrémont has reported that four out of five project areas are now complete.

Installation of the 84km water transfer pipeline and the 87km underground power supply were recently completed. Marine and tunnelling works were finished earlier this year, which means that four out of five project areas are now complete.

This leaves only the final stages of the desalination plant itself to be finished. While Thiess Degrémont has confirmed that the plant will not reach full production by 30 June 2012 as expected, it is important to understand that the bulk of construction work has been completed. Thiess Degrémont

is continuing to demobilise its large construction workforce accordingly and there are currently no job opportunities available on the project.

The task that now remains is completion of electrical works and commissioning of the desalination plant. These activities do not require as large a workforce.

The plant site will close down over the Christmas and New Year period. A skeleton workforce crew is expected to remain at the plant site during this time.

Property and website news

A reported five properties were leased during the September /October 2011 period. This was a significant decrease from July/August and brings the total number of properties let to 610. There was also a decrease in the number of new listings reported with 4 additional properties made available during the two months.

The reported average asking price for properties let during the period was \$432 per week – a significant increase on the July/August average of \$420 per week. At the end of October, 75 Housing Accord properties were vacant. Of those potential rentals, 47 per cent were priced at less than \$400 per week; 37 per cent priced between \$400 and \$500 per week; while 16 per cent were asking more than \$500 per week.

Website traffic decreased significantly during September with approximately 223 page visits. This decreased further to approximately 204 in October, resulting in 427 website visits over the two month period and an overall decrease from the July/August period. The majority of interest continued to originate from Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, with fewer visits from other cities such as, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Central Coast and Dubbo.

Feedback ...

The 'Accord News' is a bi-monthly e-bulletin. The Community Strengthening Team welcomes contributions from Accord members. Contributions for the January edition by 6 January 2012 would be appreciated. Contact Community Strengthening on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or housing@basscoast.vic.gov.au