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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Pipeline work reaches peak

With more than half the pipe in the ground and the workforce reaching maximum capacity, the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance has almost 50 crews spread all along the entire 70 km pipeline route.

Alliance spokesperson Denise Hurley said the project team was now more than 1200 strong and crews in the past week had laid more pipes in one day than any other time during the project.

"Our workers laid 98 pipes in one day, which is about 1.3 kilometres. That's an enormous effort as each pipe also has to be welded, verified and tested to ensure quality before being completed," Ms Hurley said.

"At this rate, and without early adverse weather, we will complete quality pipe laying works in the next few months enabling us to minimise the disturbance to local residents and ensure we keep ahead of the worst of the winter weather."

Ms Hurley said good progress ensured the project remained ahead of schedule so water could be delivered to Melbourne as soon as possible.

"We have strengthened our workforce to ensure other aspects of the project keep up with the pace being set by our pipe-laying crews.

"There is still a lot of work to be completed including building the two pump stations and power sub-station. Although reinstatement work has begun, there is an enormous amount of work involved in that, too," Ms Hurley said.

The inlet structure at the Goulburn River Pump Station, which will deliver water for the pipeline, is now under construction.

The foundation for the High Lift Pump Station, which will pump water over the Great Dividing Range, is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

At Sugarloaf Reservoir, the outlet structure, which will channel water from the pipeline into the dam while protecting the banks of the reservoir, is nearly complete.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Project remains on budget.

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