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MEDIA RELEASE

Tunnel completion major milestone for Sugarloaf Pipeline

'Ollie' the tunnel boring machine today completed an 830 metre tunnel beneath the Toolangi State Forest which forms part of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

Alliance Project Manager Rob Cranston said the successful completion of the tunnel marked a major milestone in the pipeline project.

Mr Cranston congratulated the Project Manager for the tunnel, Sam Jones, and his team on successfully completing the tunnel earlier than expected.

Tunnelling began on April 1 and took 10 weeks. A crew of 10 worked 24 hours a day, six days a week.

'Ollie' is an \$8 million, 100 tonne remote-controlled Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) manufactured especially for the rock encountered in the Toolangi State Forest.

Mr Cranston said most of the rock encountered was 8—10 times stronger than structural concrete.

'Ollie' is guided remotely by an above-ground operator. As it cuts through the rock, it uses precast pipe sections to drive the machine and provide immediate ground support. The sections are pushed forward using a large hydraulic jacking frame.

'Ollie' mixes the excavated material with slurry for transport back to the surface, where it is segregated by a large Slurry Treatment Plant on-site. Some of the rock has been used elsewhere on the Sugarloaf Pipeline. The majority is disposed of at the old Castella Quarry.

'Ollie' is named after the world's biggest worm, the Giant Gippsland Earthworm.

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