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MEDIA RELEASE

Alliance replaces 100 year old pipes

One hundred year old pipes in Yarra Glen that once carried water to the Western suburbs and Werribee have been replaced by the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance.

Melbourne Water Project Director Rod Clifford said the Alliance had been asked to replace the 2.3 kilometre section of aging pipeline as part of their works as they had the right machinery and expertise in the area.

“This also means that Yarra Glen residents are not impacted by two separate sets of works,” he said.

In the early 1900s, the Maroondah Aqueduct was a vital part of Melbourne’s water infrastructure supplying water across parts of Melbourne and country areas. Today it provides water to Yarra Glen and channels water from Maroondah Reservoir to Sugarloaf Reservoir.

The Alliance has replaced twin 1350mm wrought iron riveted pipelines with a single 1750mm mild steel concrete-lined pipeline. The inlet and outlet structures of the Steels Creek Siphon have also been updated.

The pipe uses the same pipe track as the Sugarloaf pipeline.

Mr Clifford said the Maroondah Aqueduct was predominantly open-channel. It was only at the gravity-fed Steels Creek Siphon that the water is piped and eventually goes into the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

He said the new pipes were able to transfer up to 250 megalitres of water per day and were expected to last another 150 years.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Project remains ahead of schedule with about 50 Alliance crews working along the 70 kilometre pipeline route and 52 kilometres of pipe laid.

Under a small section of the Toolangi State Forest, ‘Ollie’ the tunnel boring machine has reached the other end of the 830 metre tunnel. Construction of the two pump stations is well underway and the power sub-station transformer building is almost complete.

The project remains on budget and pipe laying is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Media Contact: **Denise Hurley** on **97278405** or **0437 359 400**