



Wednesday 15 July 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Pasture returns on pipeline project

Reinstatement has begun on the Sugarloaf Pipeline, with more than 10 kilometres sewn with pasture.

Melbourne Water Project Director Rod Clifford said recent rains were helping the grass re-establish over the pipeline in areas between Glenburn and Devlin's Bridge.

Mr Clifford said the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance was working with agricultural consultants and landowners in an effort to return the land as close as possible to its previous condition.

"The results have been extremely promising with ideal growing conditions resulting in lush pasture growth.

"Much of the reinstatement to date has been based on two pastoral mixes advised by agricultural consultants. However, these can vary depending upon the wishes of the landowner," he said.

The two pastoral mixes include a perennial ryegrass mix consisting of subclover, white clover and Banquet perennial ryegrass, and a Phalaris mix, consisting of fescue, cocksfoot, annual ryegrass, Australian phalaris and subclover.

"The Alliance considers the reinstatement of the land to be a very important part of the project and works will continue to be monitored until the regrowth is in a strong stable condition," Mr Clifford said.

Reinstatement has also started in the Toolangi State Forest.

More than 80 percent of the 70 kilometre pipe has now been laid.

Pipe laying is mostly completed north of Yea township except for minor waterway crossings and the connection at the Goulburn River Pump station. Pipe laying is also complete through the Yea River crossing at Yea where reinstatement is underway.

Pipe laying work is continuing through Yarra Glen and south from the Toolangi State Forest toward the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

The project remains on budget and ahead of schedule.

Media Contact: Denise Hurley on 97278405 or 0437 359 400