



Wednesday, 22 July 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Pipeline works scheduled to protect school kids



Dixons Creek Primary School Principal, Sharon Walker, thanks the Alliance for a job well done

Dixons Creek Primary School Principal, Sharon Walker, believes the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance's willingness to address their concerns helped ensure the safety of students during construction.

Ms Walker said the school appreciated the Alliance working long hours during the recent school holidays to ensure pipe laying along the front of the school was completed while children were not around.

Furthermore, she said the work resulted in significant improvements to the roadway entrance to the school.

Ms Walker said that on such a big project, it was impressive that the project team had been willing to make changes to meet the school's needs.

"Some of our young students are very interested in big machinery but have little understanding of boundaries and dangers and there's no childproof fencing to guarantee they don't wander onto the construction site," she said.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project is part of the Victorian Government's plan to save, create and share water in the face of drought and climate change. Melbourne Water, GHD, SKM and John Holland are working as an alliance to deliver this \$750 million project linking the Goulburn River near Yea with the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

"The project team managed this risk by working long hours and I want them to know that we really appreciate it. They also listened to our concerns. For example, they relocated an air valve at our request, despite it apparently creating additional engineering impacts.

"Their follow through afterwards was also very professional. A liaison officer was at the school early before children started back after the holidays checking there were no works outstanding," Ms Walker said. "They have continued to liaise with us to ensure it's all going well."

Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance spokesperson Denise Hurley said the construction team had overcome several challenges to complete the works within the school holidays.

"Workers had to avoid high-voltage cables and there was about 30 metres of unexpected rock that had to be hammered out," she said. "This added about two days to the job.

"The Alliance started clearing on the Friday after school was out and worked through two Sundays to ensure works were completed on the Saturday before school returned. The dedication by the workers to meet the school's needs was a great effort," she said.

Ms Hurley said pipe laying in the Dixons Creek area was progressing well.

"To ensure the safety of motorists and workers, one lane of the Melba Highway between Wills Road and just south of Pinnacle Road will be closed for the next four weeks. The closure will be in place Monday to Saturday during daylight hours only," she said.

About 85 per cent of pipe laying along the 70km route is now complete and the project remains.

Media Contact: Denise Hurley on (03) 9727 8405 or 0437 359 400

About the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project is part of the Victorian Government's plan to save, create and share water in the face of drought and climate change. Melbourne Water, GHD, SKM and John Holland are working as an alliance to deliver this \$750 million project, which will link the Goulburn River near Yea with the Sugarloaf Reservoir.