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MEDIA RELEASE

Project sows the seeds for early completion



Pilot David Empey of Paton Air, Mansfield, sprays herbicide on reinstated ground near Glenburn

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance has made significant progress sowing pasture and reinstating land over about 70 per cent of the pipeline route after pipelaying was completed last month.

Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance spokesperson Denise Hurley said work was progressing very well with about 50km of the 70km long corridor already reinstated.

The Alliance is committed to reinstating the land as near as practicable to the condition it was found prior to construction.

Ms Hurley said in some areas a Bell Jetranger helicopter was being used to spray seed, herbicide and fertiliser to help the reinstatement progress.

"The helicopter enables spraying of large sections of the pipeline route to be completed quickly without disturbing the new pasture," 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.

Pilot David Empey of Mansfield based Paton Air, which specialises in geo-mapping, powerline inspections and agricultural work, says using a helicopter is an efficient and accurate way of treating large areas of land quickly.

Ms Hurley said reinstatement was underway at the Yea River crossing in Yea, from Yea to Devlin Bridge, Dixons Creek, Killingworth, Yarra Glen, Steels Creek, Toolangi and Sugarloaf Reservoir. It is nearing completion in Glenburn and is expected to commence soon at the Yea River at Castella.

The project's major infrastructure is also progressing well.

Construction of the control building and switchyard at the power substation is complete along with about 70 per cent of the two pump stations.

At the Goulburn River pump station, north of Yea, the walls of the wet well are complete and work on the roof is expected to begin within the next two weeks. The inlet structure is almost complete and the intake pipe is finished. The upper level and roofing of the control building is 75 per cent built. Fit-out has begun on the first floor of the two-storey transformer building and work on the ceiling is underway.

The steel structure of the Sheoak high-lift pump station, south of Yea, is almost complete and fit out will begin next week. Installation of the roof will begin later this month. The walls of the balance tank are complete and fit-out and construction of the roof is about 50 per cent built.

Ms Hurley said that while there was still plenty of construction work to do, the project remained on budget and ahead of schedule.

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About the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance

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