



Thursday, 24 September 2009

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Alliance construction update

Work on the Sugarloaf Pipeline project is continuing to make significant progress with over 50km of the 70km alignment now reinstated.

To help the reinstatement process, a Bell Jetranger helicopter is spraying herbicide, fertiliser and seed to certain reinstated areas along the alignment. The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance is committed to successfully reinstating all land affected by the pipeline to its original condition or as near as practicable to it.

Melbourne Water Project Director, Rod Clifford, said work to complete the project's major infrastructure is also progressing well with construction ongoing at all sites.

"Construction of the high-lift pump station, north of Yea, is well underway. Last week the six centrifugal pumps, which will eventually pump water over the Great Dividing Range to Sugarloaf Reservoir, arrived on-site," said Mr Clifford.

Work at the power substation, east of Yea, is also progressing well. With construction of the control building and switchyard now complete, work is now focused on the internal fit-out of the site and commissioning. The substation will provide the power to run both of the Sugarloaf Pipeline's pump stations.

At the Goulburn River pump station construction of the internal and external walls of the 'wet well', plus excavation, piling and base slab works are now complete. Construction of the roof will commence in the coming weeks. The wet well is a large concrete chamber that will hold water until it is pumped down the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

As part of the Alliance's ongoing commitment to leave a positive legacy with the local community, project staff are continuing to work directly with landowners and members of the community affected by construction of the 70km Sugarloaf Pipeline.

To date, compensation offers under the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986* (Vic) totalling more than \$1.7 million have been made to landowners. This compensation is to acquire an easement on private property and to ensure ongoing access for operation and maintenance staff. In addition to this, more than \$121,000 has been paid under the *Water Act 1989* (Vic) for loss of agricultural production as a direct consequence of construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project remains within budget and ahead of schedule.

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