

Alliance boosts Bendigo business



Another pipe joint manufactured by Bendigo Engineering is delivered to the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance

The task of joining the Sugarloaf Pipeline pipes together has created new jobs and boosted business for an engineering company in Bendigo.

Owner of the family business Bendigo Engineering, Bill Lucas, says his company has manufactured about 100 pipe joints and provided other engineering expertise for the project since late last year.

"The [Sugarloaf] Pipeline project has had a fantastic impact on our business enabling us to employ two extra staff and keep four or five guys solidly working after starting last Christmas," Mr Lucas said.

"Economic times are tough and we may not have been able to keep all our guys on if it wasn't for the project.

“We have also bought other equipment adding an investment of about \$50,000 to our business,” Mr Lucas said. “We buy locally, so this has had a flow on effect on other businesses.”

Mr Lucas said other local and Victorian businesses that had received spin-off benefits included hardware stores, transport companies and other engineering companies.

Bendigo Engineering’s work on the project has included providing temporary pipe-ends to prevent people crawling into the pipeline during construction.

“The work has been good for business and we hope it’s the beginning of an ongoing relationship that will bring in further business,” Mr Lucas said.

Pipelaying on the Sugarloaf Pipeline project was completed in late August.

Construction of the two pump stations and power substation is also well underway and the Sugarloaf Pipeline project is ahead of schedule and on budget.

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http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news_and_information/media_photography.asp

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.