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MEDIA RELEASE

Pipeline replanting boosts disability jobs



Ben McCormack (left) and Jamie Skinner display native plants Yarra View Nursery is supplying to revegetate the land along the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

Pipeline replanting boosts disability jobs

The reinstatement of more than 300,000 indigenous plants by the Alliance along the pipeline route is providing a big boost for a local not-for-profit nursery business.

Yarra View Nursery has secured a contract to grow about 18 per cent of all plants required for the pipeline project.

Paul De Stefanis, Financial Manager of Yarra View Nursery, said the contract is important for the business and will continue to provide work during the upcoming, normally-slower summer season.

The Yarra View Nursery provides employment and horticultural training opportunities for more than 90 adults with disabilities.

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 Alliance is providing native seed for the nursery to plant, nurture and grow to a healthy state before being reinstated along the pipeline route. Most of the plants will have been planted by the end of November.

The nursery's site manager, Glen Chadband, said the business was growing about 60,000 indigenous plants for the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

"This has provided some additional horticultural experience for our staff as it has enabled them to work with stock we normally wouldn't grow," Mr Chadband said.

Overall, the nursery produces more than 500,000 plants annually at its 12 acre site at Mt Evelyn, about 35km east of Melbourne.

Mr Chadband said the business currently focused on wholesale plant supply, but he hoped the work with the Alliance would open up opportunities to further expand into the revegetation market.

Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance Contracts Manager, Cameron Richmond, said the Alliance's commitment to reinstate the land to as near as practicable to the condition it was found has also provided several opportunities to other regional nurseries.

Other regional businesses growing plants for the Alliance include Chris Fletcher (Yarra Glen), VOATH (Reedy Creek), Healesville Plants (Toolangi), Steve Pickering (Coldstream) and Buxton Zoo Nursery (Buxton).

"Once the plants are grown, they are being stored at Yarra View Nursery until they are required on-site for planting by Revegetation Victoria (based in Seymour)," Mr Richmond said.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project is injecting about \$34 million into about 130 businesses based within 12 municipalities surrounding the pipeline route.

The project itself continues to make significant progress with most of the pipeline route now seeded and the major infrastructure almost complete. It remains 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.