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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Waterway reinstatement results are good



Alliance workers reinstate a creek on the Sugarloaf Pipeline alignment

Reinstatement of about 50,000 plants at more than 50 waterways along the Sugarloaf Pipeline route is proceeding well.

Waterways engineer David Balshaw said a team of 40 workers, including qualified revegetation officers, have been working with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and Melbourne Water for the past few months to ensure the successful rehabilitation of the waterways before the end of the year.

Mr Balshaw said reinstatement has been carried out under strict environmental controls and in accordance with Federal and State Government approved Environmental Management Plans, which aimed to minimise impacts on habitats and natural and cultural resources.

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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.

As part of the approvals for the Sugarloaf Pipeline to cross the waterways, permits for reinstatement were established by flora specialists, Mr Balshaw said.

"Pre-works incorporated inspections by wildlife specialists including aquatic ecologists, and in the case of the Yea River, bypassing flows around the work site during construction," Mr Balshaw said.

"Rehabilitation included bank stabilisation, rock beaching to protect waterway bed and banks from erosion and to protect the Sugarloaf Pipeline, revegetation with plant species indigenous to the local area and weed management."

Mr Balshaw said the Alliance has been working closely with GBCMA and Melbourne Water as the catchment management authorities responsible for the waterways along the alignment and they were all pleased with the results.

GBCMA Senior Waterway and Floodplain Engineer, Tom O'Dwyer, said the rehabilitation work has been very thorough and the work itself very good.

"At some of the crossings such as the Yea River at Devlin Bridge, Castella and Yea, there were some rehabilitation challenges but we worked well together with the Alliance to ensure construction impacts were minimised," said Mr O'Dwyer.

"The result, in some cases, is that the waterways have been enhanced," he said.

"I hope long after the project and the rehabilitation work are completed, GBCMA can work with landowners to continue to ensure the long-term protection of these waterway crossings and extend the work outside the pipeline construction area," Mr O'Dwyer said.

Other reinstatement work along the Sugarloaf Pipeline has almost been completed and a carpet of green is beginning to form along the route.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline remains ahead of schedule and on budget.

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[http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news\\_and\\_information/media\\_photography.asp](http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news_and_information/media_photography.asp)

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#### **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.