

MEDIA RELEASE

First power boosts the pipeline project



Workers splice a cable in preparation to connecting electricity to the power substation

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance has reached another major milestone with the Yea power substation being connected to the electricity grid.

Announcing the success of the connection, senior project engineer John Drury said about 25 workers from SPAusNet, Tenix Alliance and the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance worked over the weekend to connect the power.

“The result was an outstanding success,” Mr Drury said. “High voltage power is now available to feed the power substation, which will supply energy to the two pump stations so they can pump the water over the Great Dividing Range to the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

“The power has been connected from the electrical grid to the SP AusNet zone substation. In early December, power will be connected to the Sugarloaf Pipeline pump stations themselves,” Mr Drury said.

Melbourne Water Project Director, Rod Clifford, said a hydro-electric generator being built at the Sugarloaf Reservoir will harness the energy of water leaving the Sugarloaf Pipeline to help power operations.

“The hydro-electric generator will recover about 40 per cent of the energy required to power the two Sugarloaf Pipeline pump stations and the rest of the power will be offset through the purchase of energy from renewable sources,” Mr Clifford said. “This means the Sugarloaf Pipeline will have a zero net impact on carbon emissions.”

Construction of the two pump stations continues to make good progress. The control building at the Goulburn River pump station is now complete and water testing is expected to begin soon.

Construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline remains on budget and ahead of schedule.

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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.