



Wednesday, 16 December 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Alliance joins Shire in \$800,000 road upgrade

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance and the Shire of Yarra Ranges will jointly fund an \$800,000 road upgrade that will provide long-term benefits to the Yarra Valley area.

The Alliance will provide \$500,000 and Shire will provide the remaining \$300,000 to fund bitumen spray-sealing of three roads.

The upgrade includes Glenview Road (from Yarraview Road to Kings Street) and the dirt sections of Yarraview Road and Gulf Road (from Steels Creek Road to the existing bitumen).

Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance Project Manager, Rob Cranston, said the Alliance was pleased to support the Shire in sealing the roads as it further highlighted the Alliance's commitment to leaving a positive legacy from construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

"Although the roads have been well maintained throughout construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline and reinstated to a high standard, we wanted to make a significant contribution to the local community and thought this was a great way to do it.

"The sealing of these roads will improve road conditions in the Yarra Valley area and provide long term benefits to the local community," Mr Cranston said.

Shire of Yarra Ranges councillor Jeanette McRae welcomed the Alliance funding and said it allowed these important works to be implemented in an affordable way.

"These roads are an important part of our road network and we are delighted by the Alliance's initiative to help us improve them," said Councillor McRae.

"I commend the Shire of Yarra Ranges' environment and engineering teams and the Alliance for working cooperatively to achieve this great outcome."

Funding from the Alliance will be provided immediately and the upgrade is expected to begin in early 2010.

Construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline remains ahead of schedule and within budget, and is expected to deliver water to the Sugarloaf Reservoir in February.

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