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MEDIA RELEASE

Pipeline project works through holiday period

There's little time for a Christmas break constructing the Sugarloaf Pipeline with works continuing unabated.

During the next few weeks, as both pump stations come on-line, testing of the 70km Sugarloaf Pipeline will ramp up, including working 24 hour' a day if required.

Construction Manager Matt Dinnison said the water has been ordered for testing the pump stations and this testing will continue throughout the Christmas–New Year period.

“We need to ensure that both pump stations can operate effectively under a full range of conditions and meet performance requirements,” Mr Dinnison said.

The community can expect to see plenty of Alliance workers at the pump stations making sure everything is functioning correctly.

An estimated five billion litres of water will be used during testing in December and January. Once testing is completed, the water will be delivered to the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

Other work planned for early in 2010 includes reinstatement of land, which continues to progress well. Reinstatement has commenced in the Toolangi State Forest, where the Alliance is reinstating wildlife habitats and native vegetation.

The Alliance has also continued its community sponsorship program providing additional sponsorship to Yarra Glen Primary School and the Alexandra Friends of the Library.

The Alliance has now donated more than \$40,000 to community groups along the Sugarloaf Pipeline route and Melbourne Water has provided \$5 million in Regional Benefits Grants.

The Alliance also announced it is contributing \$500,000 to the Shire of Yarra Ranges to jointly fund the sealing of three roads in the Yarra Valley area, leaving another positive legacy from construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

Construction of the Sugarloaf Pipeline remains ahead of schedule and within budget and is expected to be completed in February 2010.

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