

Media Release

27 March 2017

PROGRESS UPDATE

Water Connection On Track

Dry times and the implementation of staged water restrictions have highlighted the need for water security for local communities within South Gippsland Water's supply region.

Identified as systems at risk, the Ruby Creek and Little Bass water supply systems, servicing Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora, will be secure for the next 50 years following the Lance Creek Water Connection. South Gippsland Water Managing Director Philippe du Plessis said, "The pipeline, from our largest reservoir at Lance Creek, will deliver water security to the area and provide a dependable environment for residents, community development, economic growth and future investment within the region."

When it comes to securing water supply through a large-scale pipeline project, a great deal of planning and consultation needs to be completed up-front before any sod is turned. Elements of design relating to pipeline infrastructure and alignment have been updated following consultation with land owners, additional survey work, and detailed reviews and inspections.

Discussion with land owners regarding the easement acquisition, compensation process and site rehabilitation works associated with the pipeline has also taken place.

The 3-year project has a total cost of some \$43 million and last year the Corporation was successful in acquiring State Government funding of \$30 million. The connection to Lance Creek reservoir will also enable the use, as required, of an existing link to the Melbourne Water Supply System, including the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant and Cardinia Reservoir.

Commencement of pump station construction is scheduled to begin in the first half of 2017, with pipeline construction on private property scheduled for the second half of 2017. The level of construction activity will reduce during wetter months in order to minimise disruption to land owners.

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