



VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

WORKS NOTIFICATION

Thiess Degremont, design and construction contractor, advises that the following works are about to be commence as part of the Victorian Desalination Project.

DATE OF NOTIFICATION	Monday 19 July 2010
WHAT'S HAPPENING?	<p>The Victorian Desalination Project involves the construction of one intake and one outlet tunnel.</p> <p>Construction of the 1.2km long intake tunnel is about to commence, using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM).</p>
WHEN?	Intake tunnelling will commence this week and will conclude later this year.
WHERE?	Intake tunnelling will begin at the desalination plant site and continue underground.
WHAT'S INVOLVED?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TBM will excavate a long tunnel under the dunes and sea bed, which will then be lined with pre-cast concrete rings, forming a watertight concrete tunnel • The TBM will operate 15-20 metres underground, meaning the risk of any disturbance is extremely low • No percussive construction methods or blasting techniques are involved • The intake tunnel path has been approved by the Independent Reviewer & Environmental Auditor • Williamsons Beach will be open to the public as normal
COMMUNITY CONTACTS	<p>Members of the community seeking more information are encouraged to contact the project team:</p> <p>Phone: Community contact line 1800 811 214 In person: Community Information Centre 33 – 35 Murray Street, Wonthaggi</p> <p>Email: contactus@aquasure.com.au Web: www.aquasure.com.au</p>
MEDIA ENQUIRIES	<p>Serena Middleton ph 0419 114 022 smiddleton@thiessdegremont.com.au</p>

Frequently Asked Questions about Tunnelling

Has tunnel boring been done before?

Tunnel boring has been used in construction for more than 150 years and has proven to be a safe and environmentally sound method of tunnelling. For this reason, TBMs are now used in construction projects all over the world. They are used to build everything from pipelines to huge road and rail tunnels beneath cities and the ocean.

How do they work?

TBMs have a rotating, cutting wheel at the front which can 'bore' through all types of soil and rock. The cutter head excavates a length of ground, which is then lined with pre-cast concrete rings, forming a watertight concrete tunnel.

Will there be any work undertaken in the water?

No. Tunnelling is carried out 15-20 underground.

Construction of the seawater intake and outlet structures, which sit on the seabed, is quite separate. This work is sea-based and is scheduled to begin later this year.

How long will the intake tunnel be?

The intake tunnel will be located approximately 1.2 kilometres from the plant site, or 790 metres from the Williamsons Beach shoreline.

When will construction of the outlet tunnel begin?

Construction of the outlet tunnel is expected to commence in August. A second TBM will be used to build the outlet tunnel.

Will nearby residents feel noise and vibration impacts?

Noise and vibration should not be felt during tunnelling activities. However, regular noise and vibration monitoring will be carried out to ensure compliance with all Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

Will construction of the tunnels disrupt marine life, particularly whales?

Given that the TBMs work so deep underground, the risk of any disturbance is extremely low. No percussive construction methods or blasting techniques are involved.

Will you be closing Williamsons Beach?

Williamsons Beach will remain open to the public as normal. This is one of the benefits of using a TBM for construction.

Are the relevant approvals in place to commence this work?

Yes. The path of the tunnels has been approved by the Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor.