

# AN UPDATE FROM AQUASURE

We recently hosted a successful Community Information Session in Wonthaggi and I'd like to thank those that were able to come along.

It was the first time some of our guests had visited the Community Information Centre, while others came along with a particular question to ask the project team.

Watershed Victoria was an invited guest and our project team, which included AquaSure Chairman, Chloe Munro, spent more than two hours with the group, discussing the project and answering their questions.

Out on the desalination plant site, more than 1000 tonnes of the structural steel frame is now in place and roof panel installation is progressing rapidly.

A \$4.3 million contract was recently awarded to Fytogreen from the Mornington Peninsula, who will soon begin work to supply and install the plants for the biggest green roof in Australia, comprising around 98,000 indigenous ground covers, tussocks and shrubs over a roof area more than 26,000m<sup>2</sup>.

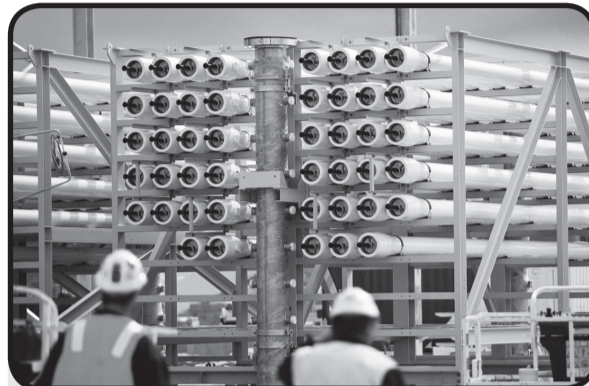
The first mechanical components have also been installed on site. These are the components that make the desalination process tick, and include the first of 72 huge dual media pressure filters (DMPFs) which will filter out small particles of sand and sediment from seawater before it passes through the desalination process.



The first DMPF is delivered to site

The first of 51 stainless steel storage racks has been installed, measuring ten metres high and ten metres wide.

The racks are being supplied by Alfasi from Dandenong and will hold 55,000 reverse osmosis membranes, the 'heart' of the desalination process where salt is separated from water.



Reverse osmosis membranes will be housed in these racks

On the tunnelling front, Wonthaggi Maggie the tunnel boring machine has now bored almost 500m of the 1.2km underground inlet tunnel. Rocking Ruby was recently launched and has started boring the 1.5km underground outlet tunnel.

More than \$1 billion in supply contracts have now been awarded, and I consider it one of the great success stories of the project to date that 75% of those contracts have been awarded to Australian companies.

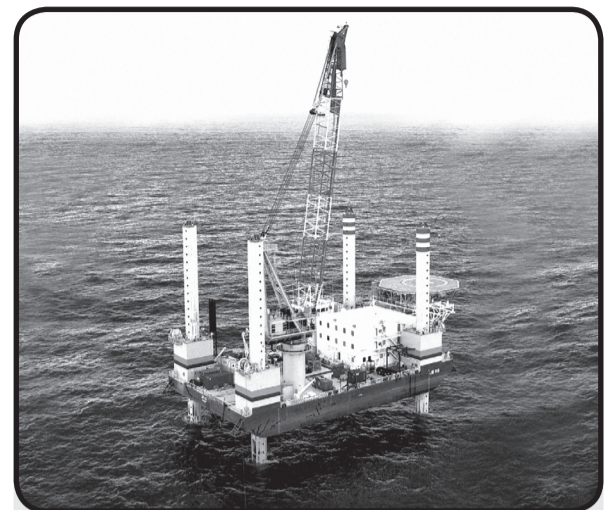
It's even more pleasing to see some of that work being awarded to companies in the communities closest to the project.

I happened to be in New South Wales the other week, inspecting the company that is supplying the concrete segments to line the tunnels. To my great pleasure, a truck from Matthews Bulk Transport Services in Wonthaggi pulled in to collect another supply of concrete segments.



The project team is looking forward to the arrival soon of JB115, the jack-up barge commissioned to enable construction of the marine intake and outlet structures.

JB115 is being transported all the way from Rotterdam on a semi-submersible heavy lift vessel. Upon arrival, the deck of this vessel will submerge below the water to allow the jack-up barge to 'float off' into the water.



The jack-up barge is arriving soon

The jack-up barge will then be towed into Western Port, where it will have its final fit out completed. It will then be towed by tug boats into position off Williamsons Beach and safely secured.

On the pipeline and power alignment, construction crews have now laid more than 35km of the 84km pipeline and 20km of the 87km power supply.

The team recently achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing a major crossing of the South Gippsland Highway in Lang Lang.

This required a significant planning and co-ordination effort between the project team, Bass Coast and Cardinia Shire Councils, VicRoads and the Department of Transport in order to minimise the impacts of the crossing on highway traffic.

A temporary dual-lane slip lane was constructed to eliminate the need for a major traffic detour, and the use of 'open cut' trenching saw the work completed in three and a half days, avoiding the need for months of speed restrictions, which would have been required had the crossing been pipe-jacked.

If you have any questions about any components of the work I've discussed in this week's column, you are most welcome at our Community Information Centre in Wonthaggi or alternatively, ring our Community Contact Line on 1800 811 214 to speak with a member of the project team.



Chris Herbert CEO, AquaSure

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