AN UPDATE FROM **AQUASURE**

The Community Liaison Group toured the desalination plant last month and was able to take in the site from a unique vantage point – the roof of the reverse osmosis building.

From this point, it is clear to see that all of the buildings on the desalination plant site are well advanced and civil construction work is nearing completion.

What is also clear is the extraordinary result that can be achieved when a team of people share a common goal. Standing out on site, one cannot help but be impressed at the feat of engineering that has occurred in such a short time.

Our construction contractor, Thiess Degrémont, has been on site for almost two years.

Construction of the reverse osmosis building is effectively complete, with planting of the green roof well underway, as witnessed by the CLG.

The administration building and main entry to the desalination plant has also progressed rapidly in recent weeks.

The architect's design means the building appears to grow out of the ground, before becoming a sweeping overhead walkway and connecting to a viewing platform overlooking the internal machinations of the reverse osmosis building.

Construction of the 84km pipeline is just weeks away from completion, with the final lengths of pipe currently being laid through the Holden Proving Ground and across Woolshed Creek.

With pipe laying nearing completion, crews are now working to remove the temporary haul roads that were built to enable direct access along the pipeline.

Once this is complete, permanent reinstatement work will begin and truck traffic on local roads will be greatly reduced. In the meantime, temporary road maintenance crews remain in place.

Meanwhile, other work crews are busily working to hydrotest the pipeline.

As I explained in my last column, hydrotesting ensures pipelines are fit for operation, providing final verification that the pipeline has been well constructed and that no defects exist within the pipes or ancillary structures before they begin operating.

To accommodate the length of the pipeline, hydrotesting is being carried out in four sections.

One out of the four sections has successfully passed their hydrotest, the results confirmed by independent, certified technicians from the National Association of Testing Authorities. The second section is full and ready for pressure testing.

Importantly, the hydrotests have been carried out with minimal impact on surrounding residents.

Meanwhile, preparations are also underway for commissioning of the 87km underground power supply.

Just like all high voltage power lines, the desalination plant's underground power supply has been designed and built to international and Australian standards to ensure its quality and safety.

Over the coming weeks, the power supply will be put through a rigorous set of tests and checks to confirm that all equipment has been constructed as planned and is ready to perform as expected when the power cable is energised, or made 'live.'

I will discuss the energisation process in more detail in my next column.

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