

VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT

FACT SHEET

**WATER NOW
AND FOR THE FUTURE.
FOR SURE.**

IN THE COMMUNITY

Keeping the community informed about the progress of construction is an important part of the Victorian Desalination Project.

How is information provided to the community?

The Community Information Centre in Wonthaggi provides a range of comprehensive project information, interpretative and multi-media displays, a scale model of the desalination plant and progress updates.

The centre is staffed by Community Officers who can provide visitors with an overview of the project and answer questions and queries.



The Community Information Centre in Wonthaggi provides a range of comprehensive project information.

They also deliver regular presentations to groups and schools upon request and attend local events such as agricultural shows, markets and other local festivals with a mobile community information centre, providing the wider community an opportunity to obtain up-to-date information about the project.

A freecall number and website provide a contact point for information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while community information sessions and open days facilitate access and discussion with construction and desalination experts.

Information is also distributed to the local community through regular newsletters, newspaper columns, official Work Notifications and the AquaSure website.

How does the project support the local community?

AquaSure is an active supporter of the community and a key sponsor of the Bass Coast Community Foundation by donating \$100,000.

AquaSure's construction contractor, Thies Degrémont, shares this commitment with its Community Partnerships Program providing support and sponsorship for local events and activities.

Through this program, Thies Degrémont has invested more than \$300,000 in the community to date.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) funded a business case for the Wonthaggi education precinct and Bass Coast Shire Council's management of the project's Housing Accord.

DSE has also funded \$12 million worth of road upgrades and a \$5 million pipeline to connect South Gippsland Water to the desalination plant.



The Community Liaison Group (CLG) was established by DSE as a forum to address key community issues and concerns about the project and to seek community input to project issues where possible.

The CLG is run by an independent Chair and comprises representatives from Bass Coast, Cardinia and Casey Councils, community representatives from these municipalities, AquaSure, Thiess Degrémont and DSE.

Assistance has been provided to various local clubs and organisations including:

- Wonthaggi Power Football & Netball Club for the construction of new lighting towers;
- Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club for the construction of a new clubhouse;
- Friends of the State Coal Mine for tools and equipment;
- Bass Coast Specialist School for perceptual motor equipment; and
- Bass Coast Friends of the Hooded Plover for a fauna research project.

How does the project support local industry?

More than \$1.2 billion in contracts for goods and services have been awarded on the project to date.

More than three quarters of those contracts have been awarded to Australian companies, including two thirds to Victorian companies.

The Industry Capability Network has played an important role in the procurement process, working as part of the project team to connect local suppliers with project needs.

How does the project support local employment and training?

The construction phase of the project generated many jobs in a very short period of time, among them hundreds of trades and labouring jobs successfully secured by locals.

Further employment opportunities have been generated in the community indirectly as a result of the project and a number of finance and administration trainees from the Chisholm Institute of TAFE in Wonthaggi have been able to join the project team to kick-start their traineeships.

Recruitment for the next phase of the project, Operations and Maintenance, is also nearing completion, with many positions filled by locals.

How has the project managed the accommodation of workers?

The accommodation of workers during the construction phase has been successfully managed through the Bass Coast Shire Council's Victorian Desalination Project Housing Accord.

The Accord recognises the importance of maintaining the existing pool of long-term rental properties for local residents.



Thiess Degrémont is proud to support a number of local community organisations and projects, including providing new perceptual motor equipment for students at the Bass Coast Specialist School.