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DESAL PIPELINE NEARS COMPLETION

Construction of the transfer pipeline for Victoria's new desalination plant is nearing completion, with hydrotesting due to commence next week.

Pipeline construction crews have laid more than 82km (97%) of the 84km transfer pipeline, which will connect the desalination plant with Melbourne and regional water networks.

When complete, the pipeline will be capable of carrying up to 200 billion litres of drinking water per year. Before it can begin operating, the pipeline must pass a 'hydrotest', a routine quality test carried out on gas and water pipelines all over the world.

Thiess Degrémont Nacap spokesperson, Serena Middleton, said crews would begin hydrotesting next week to confirm that the pipeline is fit for operation.

"Hydrotesting involves filling the pipeline with water, pressurising it, and then performing inspections and quality tests to confirm that the pipeline and its supporting structures, like air valves, have been well constructed and are operating properly," she said.

"To accommodate the length of the pipeline, hydrotesting will be carried out in four sections, with each section expected to take around two weeks to complete.

"Members of the community may notice small crews along the pipeline during hydrotesting, working to fill and pressurise the pipeline.

"Also, because this will be the first time that the pipeline will be filled with water, people may notice air valves along the pipeline emitting a hissing sound. This is a normal function as air is pushed out of the pipeline and will stop once the pipeline is full of water."

Members of the community seeking more information about hydrotesting can call the Victorian Desalination Project's Community Contact Line on 1800 811 214.

Progress statistics

- More than 6,645 of 6,770 sections of pipe laid to date
- Generally, each pipe section measures 1.93 metres in diameter, 13.5 metres long and weighs around 13 tonnes
- Pipes supplied by Tyco Water Melbourne, using Bluescope Steel
- 44 out of 45 road crossings complete, including major crossings of the Bass Highway and two crossings of the South Gippsland Highway
- 19 of 21 waterway crossings complete, including the Powlett and Bass Rivers

- ENDS -

Media enquiries

Serena Middleton
Thiess Degrémont Communications Manager
T: 0419 114 022
E: smiddleton@thiessdegrement.com.au

About AquaSure

AquaSure has been contracted by the Victorian Government to deliver the \$3.5 billion Victorian Desalination Project. AquaSure brings together leaders in the fields of infrastructure design, construction, and finance.

About Thiess Degrémont Nacap

Thiess Degrémont Nacap is the pipeline construction contractor for the Victorian Desalination Project. Thiess Degrémont Nacap is a joint venture between three companies - **Thiess**, one of Australia's largest and most trusted construction and services companies, **Degrémont**, a world leader in reverse-osmosis desalination technology and **Nacap Australia**, a leading pipeline construction company.