

Media Release

SUGARLOAF PROJECT WILL BE DELIVERED ON SCHEDULE

The Sugarloaf pipeline project will be delivered on schedule the project director Rod Clifford said today.

Mr Clifford said the important environmental approval process would not affect the project delivery in the first half of 2010.

"Pipe procurement is continuing and finalisation of project design work is ongoing," Mr Clifford said.

"This will enable a rapid start to construction, mid year, once the project receives the necessary approvals."

Mr Clifford said public comment on the Project Impact Assessment (PIA) report closed yesterday.

"The Expert Advisory Panel established by the Victorian Planning Minister will now review the PIA and all submissions received before making their recommendations to the state Minister for Planning and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts."

The Sugarloaf Pipeline is a key plank of the Government's Our Water Our Future: Next Stage plan.

It will bring up to 75 billion litres of water to Melbourne from 2010, available from the Food Bowl Modernisation Project, which is expected to realise 225 billion litres of water to be divided between the environment, irrigators and Melbourne.

In exchange for the 75 billion litres of water per annum, the Victorian Government is contributing \$600 million toward the first stage of the Food Bowl Modernisation Project and Melbourne Water is contributing \$300 million. The remaining \$100 million will be paid by Goulburn-Murray Water.

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