

Cloncurry Pipeline Project

PROJECT NEWSLETTER

COUNTDOWN TO PIPELINE COMPLETION

Construction workers are on the home stretch of the much anticipated Cloncurry Pipeline Project.

More than 37 of the 38 kilometres of pipes are in the ground, with the last pipes expected to be laid within a couple of weeks - only three months since pipeline construction began.

SunWater project manager John Kelly said favourable digging conditions and good construction processes had ensured the project was not only on track, but ahead of schedule.

Mr Kelly said when the pipe laying was complete, pressure testing of the pipes would be undertaken and finished before Christmas and hopefully ahead of the wet season.

In Cloncurry to inspect the pipeline's progress and meet with Member for Mt Isa Betty Kiernan and Cloncurry Shire

Mayor Andrew Daniels, members of SunWater's Board and Executive Management confirmed first water was on track to be delivered in March 2010.

"SunWater pulled out all stops on this important water infrastructure project to ensure it was delivered on time and to budget," SunWater Deputy Chair and Chair of SunWater Subsidiary North West Queensland Water Pipeline Pty Ltd Jane Bertelsen said.

"I'm pleased to see our efforts have paid dividends and this water lifeline will soon be in place and providing reliable and secure water supplies to Cloncurry."

Member for Mount Isa Betty Kiernan said with water security for Cloncurry only a few months away the people of Cloncurry could rest assured their town would never run dry again.



On schedule - (from left) SunWater CEO Peter Boettcher, Cloncurry Mayor Andrew Daniels, North West Queensland Water Pipeline Pty Ltd (a SunWater subsidiary) Board Members Kirstin Ferguson, Neil Turner and Jane Bertelsen and Member for Mt Isa Betty Kiernan look over Cloncurry Water Pipeline plans during a recent project meeting.

"Only 12 months ago the Bligh Government promised a guaranteed water supply for Cloncurry and now it's nearly here," Mrs Kiernan said.

Mayor Andrew Daniels agreed the Cloncurry pipeline provided a confidence boost for the community.

"Hopefully never again will the Cloncurry community have to suffer at the hands of drought, and that is something we all look forward to," Cr Daniels said.

"We also look forward to finalising negotiations with the State Government on water pricing."

The Cloncurry pipeline will deliver water from Lake Julius, via connection to SunWater's 110km North West Queensland Water Pipeline and Julius Dam.

PIPELINE DELIVERS FINANCIAL BOON TO CLONCURRY

The Cloncurry Pipeline Project is not only bringing a guaranteed water supply to the region, it's also delivering a significant financial boon.

When completed it is estimated that the construction of the pipeline will have injected more than \$3 million into the local economy.

Construction contractor Moody Civil and Pipe Pty Ltd and SunWater are committed to using local services where it is commercially viable to do so.

Materials sourced and supplied locally include gravel, sand, cement, concrete, fencing and fuel.

Local labourers and plant operators have been engaged on the project undertaking a variety of activities.

Cloncurry motels are also benefitting from the supply of accommodation to the 40 plus member construction team, who are residing locally for the duration of the project.

Project manager John Kelly said SunWater was committed to delivering a high quality project as inexpensively as possible.

He praised local suppliers for their support of the project.

"We are enjoying working with the local business community to deliver this important piece of infrastructure to the region," Mr Kelly said.

Andrew Tonkin of Tonkin Concrete and Crushing (pictured) is just one of the many local service providers to be engaged by SunWater.

"Many businesses have benefited, directly and indirectly, the whole project has been a big plus to Cloncurry," Mr Tonkin said.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION A PRIORITY

Careful management has ensured the protection of fauna and the environment along the Cloncurry Pipeline project corridor throughout construction.

SunWater Project manager John Kelly said numerous initiatives had been put in place to ensure fauna was cared for and that the environment was protected and rehabilitated.



Ridge-tailed Monitors spotted along the Cloncurry Pipeline project corridor.

Initiatives included conducting fauna spotting ahead of clearing works and relocating wildlife as required.

More than 530 reptiles and amphibians were captured and relocated to locations consistent with their requirements.

The construction team has also been backfilling trenches as they go to reduce the risk of wildlife falling in trenches.

Committed to the pipeline corridor's rehabilitation, 100mm of the original topsoil has been stockpiled along the route as the pipeline has been constructed, and returned to its original location to provide a natural seedbed for germination when it rains.

The construction team has also replanted grass and trees and riparian zones around watercourses. It has also reduced the width of the corridor in some areas to limit the impact on the natural environment.

"We have been very conscious about minimising the impact on the environment and rehabilitating it," Mr Kelly said.

Other initiatives have included washing down all machinery before entering and leaving the project site to ensure weeds are not transported and dust is suppressed during construction.

If you would like more information about the Cloncurry Pipeline Project you can contact the project team by:

phone: 1800 038 866 (free-call)

email: cloncurrypipeline@sunwater.com.au

visit: www.sunwater.com.au and follow the link for "Cloncurry Pipeline Project".

post: Cloncurry Pipeline Project Team

PO Box 15536

City East

Brisbane Q 4002