



Supplies of River Murray water have begun to flow to Broken Hill following the successful commissioning of the W2BH Pipeline. An event was held at the Mica Street Water Treatment Plant in February to mark the occasion.

W2BH PIPELINE TURNED ON

Broken Hill residents and businesses now enjoy a secure, high quality water supply and the benefits that flow from it, following the successful commissioning of the W2BH Pipeline.

Local industry, regional development and civic leaders were among those who gathered at Essential Water's Mica Street Water Treatment Plant to witness the symbolic turning of the valve to mark the start of Murray River water being supplied to the Silver City.

The event celebrated the end of a successful commissioning phase of the 270 km pipeline and associated infrastructure, which can deliver up to 37.4 megalitres of raw water per day to the treatment plant.

Four pump stations, a 720 megalitre bulk water storage facility and 40 km of high voltage electrical supply, were also part of what has been one of the most significant water infrastructure projects ever built in regional NSW.

Despite its size and complexity, the entire project was delivered by WaterNSW and experienced contractors John Holland and MPC Kinetic on time and under budget.

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Community gathered at the Mica Street Water Treatment Plant to mark commissioning of the W2BH Pipeline.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

-  **22,000** mild steel pipes
-  **28,000** tonnes of Australian steel
-  **Up to 37.4** megalitres of raw water per day
-  **Over 1 million** man-hours worked
-  **Almost \$50 million** spent in Broken Hill and Wentworth
-  **Two, 240-bed** construction camps



WaterNSW CEO David Harris addresses the gathering at the Mica Street Water Treatment Plant.



Aboriginal Elder Aunty Maureen O'Donnell performing the Welcome to Country.



W2BH project personnel mixed with locals and visitors at the morning event.



An important part of the W2BH Project is the 720 megalitre bulk water storage built on the outskirts of Broken Hill. The storage will ensure constant water supply during pipeline maintenance periods.

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WaterNSW chief executive officer David Harris said it could not have come at a better time for Broken Hill, which, along with the far-west and most of the river systems in the State, was currently dealing with the impacts of one of the worst droughts on record.

"We set a cracking pace in delivering this project, including building a 270km steel pipeline from the River Murray near Wentworth to Broken Hill in just 10 months," Mr Harris said.

"Mainline pipe lay crews averaged around 3km of pipe laid per 12-hour shift. In August they laid an outstanding 7.3km in a single shift – an Australian pipe laying record!"

Not only has the project drought-proofed Broken Hill, it has also provided employment and training opportunities for many locals, as well as a direct boost to the economies of Broken Hill and Wentworth.

Over 150 people from the two centres secured a job on the W2BH Project, including 47 local Aboriginal people - almost double the target set for WaterNSW to achieve. Around 20 of those were employed as trainees, enabling them to gain new skills and qualifications that will lead to better employment opportunities in the future.

And almost \$50 million was injected directly into the economies of Broken Hill and Wentworth, through the local sourcing of supplies and services such as accommodation, food and fuel.



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