WATER SUPPLY SWITCH COMPLETE

Broken Hill’s transition to River Murray water supply is complete and has already brought about benefits to the community, according to Broken Hill’s water provider Essential Water.

Essential Water’s Head of Water Operations, John Coffey, said the most significant of those benefits was a marked improvement in the quality of raw water being supplied to its Mica Street Water Treatment Plant.

Water delivered by the new pipeline is treated at the plant before being distributed to Essential Water’s customers in Broken Hill.

“Since we have been receiving water from the newly constructed W2BH Pipeline, salinity levels have decreased significantly, which means less treatment is required,” Mr Coffey said.

He said just prior to commissioning of the pipeline, Essential Water was recording salinity levels above 1000 electrical conductivity (EC) but since the switch those levels have decreased to around 100 EC.

Also reassuring was the added security that came with the new infrastructure - including a 720 megalitre bulk water storage outside of Broken Hill - which can deliver up to 37.4 megalitres of raw water per day to Broken Hill.

“We now have a guaranteed water supply which, from an operational and business perspective, is extremely pleasing as it’s not something we’ve always enjoyed in recent years,” Mr Coffey said.

“That, along with the brand-new bulk water transfer infrastructure delivering the water, makes our role as Broken Hill’s water provider more sustainable.”

Mr Coffey’s comments come as the Wentworth to Broken Hill Pipeline has entered the operation and maintenance phase.

For residents and businesses in Broken Hill, nothing changes. Essential Water continues to be responsible for the supply of water in accordance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and all matters relating to the service, including billing, repairs, maintenance and disruptions.

All enquiries relating to the mainline pipeline outside of Broken Hill should be directed to the state-owned water authority WaterNSW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairs, maintenance and disruptions in Broken Hill</td>
<td>Essential Water</td>
<td>13 23 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General enquiries – Residential, business, bills, water quality</td>
<td>Essential Water</td>
<td>13 23 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainline repairs, maintenance and disruptions</td>
<td>WaterNSW</td>
<td>1300 662 077</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final project facts

$51.3 million total local spend (Broken Hill $27.5 million and Wentworth $23.8 million)

500 total workforce personnel

151 employees from the local area

48 trainees

47 Aboriginal employees

1,118,974 total hours worked

270 km of pipe laid

22,000 pipes delivered

28,000 tonnes of Australian steel

3.4 million km were travelled in work vehicles (that’s 4.5 return trips to the moon)
Tree and shrub plantings in Broken Hill

The team awarded a Plant Patron contract to local not for profit Silverlea Services’ Picton Plants. The contract for this work attracted the interest of several local organisations when it went out for tender in the latter half of 2018. Picton Plants will plant trees and shrubs, install irrigation systems and manage the plant rehabilitation works which will take place along the pipeline route in Broken Hill.

Where trees have been removed to facilitate excavation and pipeline installation, two trees of the same or similar species will be planted in its place. Shrubs and groundcovers will also be replanted.

Picton Plants will oversee ongoing maintenance activities such as watering and fertilising, and the trees will be monitored over time to manage the success of the planting program. In terms of timing, replanting will take place seasonally to avoid the heat of summer and manage the health of the trees. Orders are being placed for River Red Gum, Black Box, Mallee and ground cover species representative of Saltbush shrubland.

You may see teams of three to four people undertaking the planting program and maintaining the trees on:

- Kanandah Road, from Wentworth Road to south of the Pinnacles Road intersection
- South Road, from Gaffney Street intersection
- the conservation area between northern side of railway and Kanandah Road
- as well as along Slag Street.

During the design and construction of the 270 km pipeline, W2BH planned to minimise impacts on vegetation by moving the pipeline alignment to avoid vegetation wherever possible and selecting a route, largely within the Silver City Highway corridor, road easements and cleared areas.

A piece and the pipeline to stay at the Sulphide Street Railway and Historical Museum

Of the 22,000 steel pipes running underground from Wentworth to Broken Hill, one piece will remain above ground on display at the Sulphide Street Railway & Historical Museum. As the Broken Hill community were so involved in the construction efforts, it seemed only right that a piece of the pipeline should stay at the local museum to represent this chapter in Broken Hill’s infrastructure history.

We hope the pipe display is a reminder of the work and contributions made by the community, from those in the crew who installed the pipes into the ground to the businesses that provided resources and goods. With their efforts, this major project was delivered in record-breaking time to secure Broken Hill’s water supply.

Manufactured by SteelMains, the pipeline is made of Australian steel, and has cement lining and Sintakote coating which is a medium density polyethylene which is applied to the pipe by a fusion bonding process. It is designed to be durable for at least 100 years. We’d encourage you to stop by and see this piece of history up close.
Road reinstatement update

Final kerb-to-kerb road reinstatement is now complete, honouring a commitment by the W2BH project team to restore all roads impacted by construction to a good condition. Works were performed by Fulton Hogan who also undertake roadwork for Broken Hill City Council. Fulton Hogan will be keeping an eye on the performance of these restored surfaces as the seasons roll through to make sure they are in tip top shape.

Café farewells hungry workforce

Small businesses such as The Silly Goat and other hospitality businesses benefited significantly from the influx of new patrons working on the pipeline. The project team regulars have been granted ‘honorary locals’ status by the café owners for their two-year daily commitment to their love of great coffee and delicious healthy food. The hi-vis crews greatly appreciated the 6am coffee window open time to get started on their day.

Leone and the team at The Silly Goat Broken Hill said ‘not only did friendships form and our business benefit, but also sometimes people forget how positive and motivating it feels to see a gathering of faces local and visitors. Congregating in the main street of our town celebrating food and coffee is the heart of what it means to bring people together sharing something in common. This is community!’

‘For two years the team working on the pipeline became a part of our community and if you ask them personally I’m sure they will say that Broken Hill is a vibrant and friendly little community that they very much enjoyed being a part of. The Silly Goat is grateful for their patronage. Best of wishes to all of you whom we now consider friends.’

For years the team working on the pipeline became a part of our community and if you ask them personally I’m sure they will say that Broken Hill is a vibrant and friendly little community that they very much enjoyed being a part of. The Silly Goat is grateful for their patronage. Best of wishes to all of you whom we now consider friends.'
Working with the communities

W2BH constructed a carpark at the Wentworth Showground in time for the Wentworth Show, for which we were sponsors and also held a stall.

Blade and Michael carried out civil works at the Sulphide Street Railway & Historical Museum.

Donation to Sun Assist in Wentworth and Silverlea Early Childhood Services in Broken Hill.

Donation of medical equipment to Broken Hill Base Hospital Maternity Ward.

Laptops were donated to the South Community Centre.

In partnership with the Outback Rugby League, Lakisha and Michael spread loam over the E.T Lamb Oval to improve conditions. W2BH also supplied a scoreboard.

The W2BH project team would like to extend our gratitude to the communities of Broken Hill and Wentworth, whom have accompanied us on this journey.