The Wentworth to Broken Hill (W2BH) Pipeline is now operational. Locals Callum Mackie, Wayne Sly and Steve Head have taken roles in the operations and maintenance team.

**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)
Improvements to the parklands

WaterNSW is working with Wentworth Shire Council and Outerspace Design to undertake reinstatement works at the Great Murray Darling Junction Reserve, near the W2BH pipeline river intake.

This will include walking path networks, picnic tables, rubbish bins and shelters. A new toilet block will be built near the existing car parking facilities. The significant cultural heritage features of the park, such as the scar tree, will be protected during these works. A fire pit with seating will be a welcome addition on the chilly days ahead.

Works are planned to commence winter 2019.
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.

Bakery farewells hungry workforce

The Wentworth Bakery has been a central meeting place for W2BH workers to grab a coffee and a snack. Graeme, Fiona and their wonderful staff manage the bakery on Adams Street. They estimated that the workers during the construction phase consumed 11,500 coffees, 4,500 pies and pasties and 3,000 salad rolls. Lucky for some there was a gym at the camp.

“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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs, maintenance and disruptions in Broken Hill</td>
<td>Essential Water</td>
<td>13 23 80</td>
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<td>General enquiries – Residential, business, bills, water quality</td>
<td>Essential Water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mainline repairs, maintenance and disruptions</td>
<td>WaterNSW</td>
<td>1300 662 077</td>
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Fiona’s son Callum was working with MPC Kinetic on the construction crew and has now accepted a role with Trility who will maintain the new 270km water supply pipeline. “It’s been an awesome experience for the young lad” commented Fiona. Callum now has a fantastic opportunity to remain working and living in the region he loves.
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.

W2BH 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.