

MEDIA RELEASE

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Essential upgrade for main water supply pipeline into Bairnsdale

Some \$3.2 million of essential work is set to get underway in February to replace a key section of the main water supply pipeline into Bairnsdale.

The ageing, 350 metre section of steel main is close to the Lind Bridge at Wy Yung and includes 70 metres running along the bed of the Mitchell River. Its replacement has been fast-tracked to ensure a reliable, secure drinking water supply into town is maintained for the long-term future.

Last year a notable leak was detected in the pipeline, which was traced to a welded joint located below the river level. Short-term, temporary repairs were carried out.

The section of main will now be taken out of service and a tunnel drilled under the bed of the Mitchell River itself, to take the replacement pipeline. The tunnel will be 1.5 metres in diameter, requiring one of the largest drills available for this kind of work in Australia.

The project is due to be completed this coming winter. For a brief period an alternative pipeline will be in operation to ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water to Bairnsdale customers.

East Gippsland Water has appointed Bairnsdale-based BPR Trenching and Boring to undertake the project, with Vinidex contracted to supply the pipes and fittings.

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "Our priority is to ensure the long-term security of the main water supply pipeline into Bairnsdale.

"The length of steel main that currently runs along the bed of the Mitchell River at Wy Yung has suffered under the impact of some major floodwater events. Its replacement should be much more resilient, being installed beneath the river bed and constructed from high-density polyethylene."

Customers with queries about the project should contact East Gippsland Water's customer service team in the first instance on 1800 671 841.

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