

MEDIA RELEASE

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Under-river drilling work commences on replacement pipeline into Bairnsdale

A tunnel 300 metres long and 1.5 metres wide is now being drilled under the bed of the Mitchell River to take a much-needed replacement section of water main supplying Bairnsdale.

The work is the latest stage in a major engineering project that involves replacing an ageing stretch of steel main totalling 360 metres in length, running close to the Lind Bridge at Wy Yung.



Preparing the replacement pipeline

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "This initiative is a high priority to ensure a reliable, secure drinking water supply into town is maintained for the long-term future.

"The present submerged section of main being targeted, which sits on the bed of the river, has suffered under the impact of major flood events. Its replacement will be

more resilient, being located beneath the river bed itself and constructed from high-density polyethylene."

Once the tunneling is completed, the next stage will be to pull the replacement pipe through and into position, and connect it into the water supply system. For a brief period an alternative pipeline will be brought into operation to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water to Bairnsdale customers while the work is underway.

Bairnsdale-based BPR Trenching and Boring have undertaken the project on East Gippsland Water's behalf, with the local office of AECOM employed as project manager.

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

Ends