



**Victoria**

The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Premier of Victoria

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## **WATER FROM SUPERPIPE SECURES BALLARAT JOBS**

Ballarat's water storages are approaching 20 per cent for the first time in three years with today's 12 month anniversary of the Goldfields Superpipe Ballarat link showing that a secure water supply is protecting jobs and communities across the region.

At White Swan Reservoir near Ballarat today, the Premier John Brumby inspected water levels at the reservoir which was nearly empty one year ago before the Ballarat leg of the Goldfields Superpipe was commissioned and is now more than 65 per cent full.

"Our Government is taking action to secure water supplies for cities and towns across the state during the longest drought on record to protect jobs, generate new business opportunities and ensure our regional and rural communities continue to grow and thrive," Mr Brumby said.

"The Goldfields Superpipe is a great example of a vital water saving project which is providing water security for more than 120,000 people living and working in the Ballarat region and giving businesses the confidence to plan for and invest in the future with confidence.

"Since I turned on the tap of the Superpipe one year ago, more than 12 billion litres of water has been transferred through the 87-kilometre pipeline, boosting water storage levels from a record low of 7.4 per cent at this time last year to on track to reach 20 per cent next week."

Major employers in the region have reported that water security through the Superpipe has been one of the key factors enabling them to plan with confidence for their future in the region.

"Importantly, 18 businesses and community organisations adversely affected by Stage 4 water restrictions have benefited from an additional 135 million litres of water which they purchased and have been able to transfer through the Superpipe. Such industries have included car washes, sporting grounds and bowling clubs," Mr Brumby said.

The \$180 million Goldfields Superpipe was commissioned on May 19 last year and can transfer up to 18 billion litres of water from Sandhurst Reservoir near Bendigo to White Swan Reservoir near Ballarat.

The Victorian Government contributed \$71 million to the Ballarat link of the project with the Commonwealth Government providing \$90 million and Central Highlands Water \$19 million.

Mr Brumby said water saving projects like the Goldfields Superpipe were transforming the state.

"The Ballarat leg of the Goldfields Superpipe was originally planned for completion in 2010 but was fast-tracked to midway through last year with construction only taking 10 months to complete because it was a major priority for our government," Mr Brumby said.

"And a year ago the White Swan Reservoir was at a record low of seven per cent and is now 65 per cent full – this is a great achievement and has secured the future prosperity of this wonderful part of our state.

"We continue to deliver vital water saving projects to secure Victoria's water supply such as Food Bowl Modernisation, the Sugarloaf Pipeline, Australia's largest desalination plant and the Tarago reconnection project.

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“The \$688 million Wimmera Mallee Pipeline project, which will replace open channels with a piped water distribution of about 8,800 kilometres in western Victoria, is on track to be completed by the end of this year.”

Member for Ballarat East Geoff Howard said the Ballarat community was benefiting greatly from having a secure water supply with investments from the Victorian and Commonwealth governments reducing the impact on local water users bills.

“With individual water use less than 150 litres per person per day, the Ballarat community is leading the way as one of the most efficient regional populations across Victoria,” Mr Howard said.

“The Ballarat link of the Goldfields Superpipe has transformed water supply for Ballarat and I congratulate everyone who has been involved in the delivery of this project. We are now seeing first-hand the massive benefits secure water is delivering to the Ballarat community.”