

# Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline

FITZROY - GLADSTONE

Steel Mains  
SINTAKOTE

AUSTRALIAN  
STANDARD  
AS 1511  
LIC 2548

## Construction Update

January 2024

### October – December 2023 completed activities

- ✓ Ridgелands Road turn-in and turn-out.
- ✓ Trenched crossing at Laurel Bank Road and Ski Gardens Road in Alton Downs.
- ✓ Trenchless crossing at Nine Mile Road and Ridgелands Road in Alton Downs.
- ✓ Early work geotechnical investigations at the Fitzroy River Intake.
- ✓ Site establishment and earthworks at Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant and Aldoga Reservoir sites.
- ✓ Construction of workers accommodation camp in Gracemere.
- ✓ Sod-turning ceremony in Yarwun on 17 October.

### Upcoming activities to commence in the next quarter:

- + Ridgелands Road and Laurel Bank Road intersection upgrade.
- + Pipe laying and major construction continues.
- + Site establishment at Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant and Fitzroy River Intake sites.
- + Permanent access to the Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant.
- + Bulk earthworks, office establishment and construction of permanent access road at Aldoga Reservoirs site.
- + Continued local procurement and engagement of subcontractors.

### Sod-turning ceremony at Yarwun

On 17 October, the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) celebrated the start of major construction with a sod-turning ceremony in Yarwun. The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk, then-Premier of Queensland, The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing, Minister for Water and Member for Gladstone, joined Gladstone Area Water Board's (GAWB) Chair, Adrienne Ward, to turn the first official sod.

The Member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga MP, Gladstone Regional Council Mayor, Matt Burnett and Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor, Tony Williams, were also in attendance at the sod-turning event.

The sod-turning follows the first pipe arrival from Steel Mains Pty Ltd to the laydown site in Gracemere on 19 June 2023, and the laying of first pipes through Wetland Protection Areas (WPAs) near Rockhampton on 11 September 2023. Video footage of the first pipe laying through WPAs can be accessed on the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline webpage [here](#).



Former Premier Palaszczuk talking with FGP Chief Operating Officer (COO), Hugh Barbour, and GAWB General Manager Network, Scott Wikman.



Mayor Tony Williams, Adrienne Ward, former Premier Palaszczuk, Glenn Butcher MP, Mayor Matt Burnett and Brittany Lauga MP turning the sod (from left to right).

## Pipe laying progress

As of the end of December, a total of 26 kilometres of pipe has been laid through the northern pipeline corridor, making up more than 22% of the 117 kilometers of pipe required for the FGP. This includes two of the seven total WPAs within the pipeline corridor. The remaining five WPAs will be completed during the 2024 dry season (May-September). Other recent significant milestones include:

- Completion of pipe laying from Ski Gardens Road to the Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant
- Completion of two trenchless crossings at Nine Mile Road and Ridglands Road in Alton Downs.

Pipe laying through the northern boundary of the Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area commenced in early November 2023. Major pipe laying works are expected to commence in the southern end of the pipeline corridor in early 2024, following the completion of preparative works, including geotechnical investigations and cultural heritage clearances, which have been taking place since mid-2023.



*Pipe laid in Alton Downs in the northern pipeline corridor.*

## Gracemere workers accommodation camp completed

Another FGP milestone was ticked off earlier this month with the completion of construction of the temporary workers camp and site office in Gracemere!

The accommodation camp facilitates up to 104 people, and can be expanded to accommodate a maximum of 136 people if required. The camp includes a reception, office, kitchen and dining, amenities, gym, laundry, locker room, linen store, storage, communications room and medical room.

A warehouse has also been constructed, including a laydown area, washdown area and a vehicle workshop for minor repairs. The workers accommodation camp will be occupied from January 2024.

On 22 November, Glenn Butcher MP stopped by to check out the workers accommodation camp. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the wonderful progress our team has made in recent months.



*Glenn Butcher MP and Hugh Barbour at the workers accommodation camp.*

## Local spend and content

### Local spend

The FGP team are committed to creating a lasting legacy in the Central Queensland region. To help achieve this, GAWB and its Principal Contractor McConnell Dowell BMD Joint Venture (MBJV) have committed to local spend targets to support businesses in the region. A total spend of \$90 million has been allocated for the Gladstone and Rockhampton region. As of the end of December 2023, \$54.1 million has been spent within the Gladstone and Rockhampton region, and a further \$81.1 million spent within Queensland.



## Suppliers and equipment

### Steel Mains visit

Our delivery team has been on the move, actively engaging with our suppliers to gain firsthand insights into the process of material and equipment manufacturing. On 3 October, Chief Operating Officer, Hugh Barbour, and Project Delivery Director, Graham Stacey, embarked on a journey to visit the Steel Mains facility. Steel Mains is Australia's leading manufacturer and supplier of complete steel pipeline systems for the transportation of water and wastewater. Due to the high-pressure water coming through the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, we will need Mild Steel Cement Lined (MSCL) pipes to transport it safely. Approximately 106 kilometres of this pipe is being manufactured by Steel Mains, as they are the only Australian manufacturers of this type of pipe.



*Graham Stacey, Hugh Barbour, Stephen Zelez (MBJV) and Andrew Tsitas (MBJV) with Steel Mains staff at the Steel Mains facility tour.*



## AVK Civil and White Industries visit

On 4 and 5 October, Project Director, Grant Flekser toured the White's Foundry facility and the AVK Civil plant. The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline is made up of a total of 19 isolation gate valves, which are designed to hold up to 410 tonnes of pressure. They will be located approximately every 10 kilometres along the pipeline to enable a selection of pipe to be closed off and drained for maintenance, if required.

Our delivery team is committed to maximising local content as much as possible. The isolation valves are cast by White's Foundry in Dalby, and then transported to be assembled and painted by AVK Civil in Currumbin, before heading north to be installed on the FGP.



Andrew Tsitas (MBJV) and Grant Flekser at the White's Foundry facility.



An isolation valve being cast at the White's Foundry facility.

## Mechanical Drive Chain Trencher

The Trencher T1660 Magnum Mechanical Drive Chain Trencher arrived at the Port of Gladstone in November, ready for assembly. Weighing approximately 140 tonnes, it is designed to excavate pipeline trenches in hard rock up to 1.8 metres wide and 5 metres deep. It is the largest trencher in Australia and was specifically sourced for the FGP. Once assembled, the Trencher T1660 will be used to kickstart trenching and pipe laying at the southern end of the pipeline corridor in early 2024.



Body of the Trencher T1660 arriving at the Port of Gladstone.



Tracks frames of the Trencher T1660 Magnum being washed at the Port of Gladstone.



CAT 627K wheel tractor-scraper on site at Alton Downs.

## CAT 627K Wheel Tractor-Scraper

In early November, the team commenced pre-construction works at the Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant. Early works include the clearing and grading of the site, which spans more than 99,000 square metres. The CAT 627K Wheel Tractor-Scraper, weighing a very impressive 40 tonnes, helped our team get the job done. On 1 November alone, this piece of heavy machinery moved more than 3,400 tonnes of earth. For perspective, 3,400 tonnes is the equivalent of approximately 1,133 African elephants!

## Community

### Darumbal Scarred Tree

The Darumbal People are the Traditional Custodians of the Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast Area. During a cultural heritage survey for the FGP, a scarred tree was identified in the area of the FGP easement. A scarred tree is a tree which has had bark removed by First Nations Australians for the creation of bark canoes, Coolamons, shelters, weapons or various other items. Typically, scarred trees are more than 200 years old, and they provide First Nations people today with an important link to their culture and their past.



Darumbal representatives at the scarred tree.

Our team are actively working alongside the Darumbal People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Darumbal Enterprises to ensure the scarred tree is avoided and protected during construction of the FGP. A few of our FGP team members headed out to the easement earlier this month with some of the Darumbal People to learn more about this scarred tree and its significance to the region, and discuss its protection.

### Saving snakes

The FGP corridor is home to many slithering friends, but one of the most commonly encountered are grey snakes (Hemiaspis Damelii).

Grey snakes tend to seek out forests and floodplains, meaning our team have stumbled across a few of them within the FGP corridor. Our Principal Contractor, MBJV, has successfully relocated 16 unharmed grey snakes into adjacent habitats during pipe laying works. The team has also changed their clearing and topsoil stripping methodology to reduce any adverse impact on the species.

Grey snakes, which can grow up to 1.4 metres in length, are an important part of the ecosystem and primarily consume frogs and lizards. They are listed as an endangered species however, as they are susceptible to poisoning from eating cane toads.



Two grey snakes found in the FGP corridor.

## About the pipeline

The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) is a \$983 million project which addresses Gladstone's the single source water supply risk from Awoonga Dam and enables long-term water security for GAWB's customers.



The 117 kilometre pipeline will run from the Lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun. The pipeline comprises a water treatment plant, reservoirs and pumping stations at locations along its alignment including Laurel Bank, Alton Downs and Aldoga.

The FGP will have the capacity to transport 30 gigalitres per annum from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone. The pipeline is designed to be efficiently retrofitted with additional infrastructure to enable bi-directional flow in the future.

McConnell Dowell BMD Group Joint Venture (MBJV) has been contracted to construct the FGP, and once constructed, the FGP and associated infrastructure will continue to be owned and managed by the Gladstone Area Water Board.

The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline is a Queensland Government funded project, delivered by the Gladstone Area Water Board.

## About GAWB

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) was established in 1973 as a Project Board under the *State and Regional Planning and Development, Public Works Organisation and Environmental Control Act 1971-73 (Qld)*. On 1 October 2000, GAWB commenced operations as a Category 1 Water Authority under the *Water Act 2000 (Qld)* (Water Act) and on 1 July 2008, GAWB became a registered service provider under the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 (Qld)*.

GAWB owns and operates Awoonga Dam on the Boyne River, along with a network of delivery pipelines, water treatment plants and other bulk water infrastructure required to service our customer base. We play an important role in the region and contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the State by providing one of the essential inputs, water, to a number of large multi-billion-dollar industries that are located in Gladstone.

## Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline enquiries

For any project related enquiries please contact our team:

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