

MEDIA RELEASE

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Innovation the key to relining a 58-year-old raw water pipeline

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has successfully relined two key sections of the raw water pipeline connecting Awoonga Dam and the Gladstone Water Treatment Plant in South Gladstone.

GAWB Chief Executive Officer Darren Barlow said the project had presented some unique challenges.

“This pipeline was built in the 1960’s, so its age coupled with significant geological restraints, made traditional replacement too costly and inefficient,” Mr Barlow said.

“While trenchless technologies are commonly used on water and sewage pipelines, this relining method has not been attempted on pipes of this size or specifications (DN700 Mild Steel Cement Mortar Lined pipe) in the southern hemisphere before.

“The pipeline was relined in two locations – at the Moura rail line crossing on our easement behind Toolooa State High School; and at the under-road crossing on the corner of the T-intersection between Gladstone Benaraby Road and Glen Eden Drive,” he said.

Relining was completed in two stages with a structural UV liner installed first, followed by a second steam cured inversion liner.

“In the first stage, a UV-cured structural liner was winched into the pipeline, expanded with air pressure, and hardened using high-intensity ultraviolet lights before being inspected by a robotic camera” Mr Barlow said.

“The second stage involves installing a cold-stored, resin-soaked inversion liner using steam and air pressure to bind it to the structural layer before the resin sets.”

As part of the works, a new isolation valve was also installed under the rail line crossing, which will improve network flexibility once the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline comes online.

“While not part of the relining works, the project team identified an opportunity to save money and resources by completing the work at the same time,” Mr Barlow said.

Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB), as a Queensland Government Bulk Water Supply Authority, delivers safe and reliable water services which promote economic development and enhance the lifestyle of regional Queensland. GAWB owns and operates Awoonga Dam, along with a network of pipelines, water treatment plants and other distribution infrastructure. GAWB also owns and operates Aquaculture Gladstone, a fish hatchery and interpretive display at Lookout One at Lake Awoonga.

To ensure long-term water security for customers, the 117-kilometre Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline (FGP) is under development. When delivered, the FGP will become part of the GAWB network and provide enhanced water security and reliability for the region. For more information about GAWB and the FGP, please visit www.gawb.qld.gov.au

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