

Case Study

Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Delivers Jobs to the Region

More than 380 local businesses have won more than \$100 million of work during 2008 / 2009 with the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project.

The companies were engaged by Mitchell Water Australia, which is responsible for constructing the majority of the pipeline and associated civil works on behalf of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GMMWater).

The \$688 million Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project is one of the most significant water infrastructure projects in Australia. It involves replacing nearly 18,000 kilometres of inefficient open water channels with 8,800 kilometres of pipeline. A saving of 100 billion litres of water a year is expected, which will be returned to the environment (improving waterway health) and will provide increased security of supply to agriculture and residential customers.

Mitchell Water's commitment to engaging local industry during earlier stages of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project earned the company an award at the Industry Capability Network (ICN)'s 2008 Industry Achievement Awards.

During work carried out in 2009 on Supply Systems 3 & 4 and Supply System 6, Mitchell Water continued to demonstrate a similar commitment to industry in the region.

GMMWater Managing Director Jeff Rigby commented on how the project has benefited businesses in the region:

"The impact of the construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline on the regional economy has been significant. Mitchell Water contracts with regional contractors have provided employment security and the opportunity for local businesses to increase their skills and experience with this iconic infrastructure project."

ICN, an independent, government-funded organisation that supports local industry by matching businesses with relevant opportunities, worked with Mitchell Water and provided the company with details of local businesses and contractors capable of supplying the goods and services required.

ICN Grampians Regional Manager Andrew Bradley said:

"It's great to see so many local businesses engaged in the project and benefiting from this major investment in the region."

Among companies nominated by ICN that Mitchell Water engaged to work on the project were Advanced Piping Systems, which supplied pipes and fittings; Atlas Fuels, which supplied fuels and lubricants; Boral and Conundrum Holdings, which both provided aggregate material; Eco Pure Waste Management Systems, which supplied waste management services; Workco and Skilled Engineering which provided labour and employment services; and Roger Perry Bulk Haulage which supplied transport services.

ICN also assisted Mitchell Water identify suppliers in areas such as civil construction, earthmoving, irrigation design and hydraulics.

Mitchell Water Australia's Commercial Manager Roger de Maid commented on the number of local businesses that have been involved in the project:

"There would be very few businesses and service providers in the region that have not benefited from the project.

"The support of the local business owners has been outstanding; we certainly could not have achieved what we have without them." said Mr de Maid.

GMMWater Managing Director Jeff Rigby said:

"The flow-on benefits from pipeline construction have benefited businesses as diverse as accommodation and hospitality, vehicle sales and service, business services, a range of retail outlets and training/employment services."