

Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Delivers Jobs to the Region

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

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

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.

GMMWater Managing Director Jeff Rigby said the investment had contributed greatly to the region's economy, creating jobs and boosting skills:

"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 to identify local businesses and contractors capable of supplying the goods and services required.

ICN Grampians Regional Manager Andrew Bradley said many businesses in the region had the opportunity to become involved:

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

Mitchell Water Australia's Commercial Manager Roger de Maid agreed:

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

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

Among companies nominated by ICN and engaged by Mitchell Water for 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.

Mitchell Water Australia's Commercial Manager Roger de Maid praised local businesses for their contribution to 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.

GWMWater Managing Director Jeff Rigby said the project had provided opportunities for businesses across many industry sectors:

"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."

Completion of the \$688 million Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project was recently announced by Premier John Brumby, six years ahead of schedule.

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