



MEDIA RELEASE

FIELDSTAFF PATHS TO ENGINEERING

8 August 2011

All media enquiries: Jenny Hammett 5177 4793 or 0448 905 833

Field Operations employee Julien Schill is Gippsland Water's first employee to complete a Diploma of Engineering Technology (Civil) through GippsTAFE. Commencing as a Multi-Skilled Operator in 2002, Julien has worked in a variety of roles, including on the Water Factory project, which led to Gippsland Water encouraging his return to study as a way of further developing his skills. He commenced studies in 2009 and graduated recently.

Of his decision to pursue further study Julien says, "It is probably the best thing I could have done and has given me more confidence in my daily life". He also acknowledged the support of Gippsland Water, which enabled him to attend classes while still carrying out his normal duties.

The Gippsland Regional Management Forum identified a skills shortage experienced by local organisations employing engineering staff, with the lack of a relevant qualification available locally a contributing factor.

Gippsland Water's Managing Director David Mawer said, "The development of the Diploma aims to address this and provides a much needed path for locals seeking to upgrade their skills. Gippsland Water is pleased to have been invited to sponsor Julien's participation in this pilot program.

Gippsland Water is committed to encouraging and supporting employee training and development to bring new skills to the organisation and retain and develop existing staff".



Julien is pictured accepting his Diploma from Gippsland Water's Managing Director David Mawer.

Authorised:
David Mawer, Managing Director