



MEDIA RELEASE

Baw Baw towns receive new water mains

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Nilma, Warragul and Drouin are three of 13 Gippsland Water towns that have benefited from new water mains as part of the multi-million dollar annual water main upgrade program.

Eight kilometres of water pipes in Morwell, Sale, Traralgon, Moe, Newborough, Heyfield, Mirboo North, Nilma, Stratford, Drouin, Maffra and Warragul were replaced this financial year under the program. Ascott Street in Warragul, Princes Way in Drouin and Bloomfield Road in Nilma were the Baw Baw Shire towns to receive upgraded water pipes as part of the program.

Gippsland Water has 2,020 kilometres of water pipelines within its service area which stretches from Drouin in the west to Stratford in the east, and from Mirboo North in the south to Rawson and Briagolong in the north.

Gippsland Water's assets and operations teams work together to select which pipes will be replaced under the program. Factors that contribute to the selection process include looking at the history of bursts on particular pipelines. Pipes with a high number of bursts are considered for the program.

The water mains are replaced by using either conventional trenching – which is done by open trenching and laying pipes, or underground boring – which uses a drill that is driven horizontally through the ground to make a hole, and pipes are then pushed through the hole. Boring is normally used when the water pipe needs to go under trees, driveways and road crossings.

Gippsland Water's Managing Director, David Mawer said the water main replacement program assists the corporation with its commitment to providing reliable and quality water services to its 61,400 connected water customers.

"Water main failures can be quite destructive and have the potential to damage property. Pipe bursts most often occur as a result of the failure of old, deteriorated pipes. Gippsland Water realises it is very important to manage the number of water main bursts by proactively replacing pipes when they start to fail frequently," said Mr Mawer.

Authorised:
David Mawer, Managing Director

