



Media Release

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For immediate release

Water security in the pipeline

Hunter Water customers will have greater water security, with Diona Pty Ltd today awarded the contract to replace the Chichester Trunk Gravity Main between Tarro and Shortland.

Dean McInnes, Hunter Water's Manager of Network Delivery said the pipeline provides a critical link in Hunter Water's water supply network, allowing water to be transferred between the Dungog and Grahamstown catchments for over 110,000 Hunter people.

"After 85 years of operation, it's time to replace a section of the 900mm pipe between Tarro and Shortland."

"The current pipeline is prone to flood damage and regularly requires shutdowns for maintenance, which in turn causes disruptions for local customers," Mr McInnes said.

"As we build new infrastructure and replace ageing assets, Hunter Water are always looking to provide better services for customers and minimise its impact on the environment."

The benefits of the project not only include improved water security for the community, but also visual improvements for the neighbouring residents and protection for the valuable wetlands surrounds.

"The new 7.4km pipeline will be laid underground, next to the current pipeline for 3km then follow a new route for 4.4km, bypassing the sensitive wetland environment at Hexham Swamp Nature Reserve."

Mr McInnes said the contract is part of a \$19.4 million project to upgrade the pipeline, is one component of a record infrastructure investment by Hunter Water.

"Hunter Water is currently implementing a four year \$1 billion capital works program of new infrastructure projects including pipes, mains, pumps, treatments plants, sewers and water recycling facilities.

Diona will begin constructing the new pipeline in May 2010.

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More information: Elisha Yorke, Hunter Water on 02 4979 9524 or 0427 547 498