



**Don Harwin**  
Minister for Resources  
Minister for Energy and Utilities  
Minister for the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 24 October 2018

### **PIPELINE REPLACEMENT TO SECURE LOWER HUNTER'S WATER SUPPLY**

Work has commenced on replacing a critical section of the Chichester Trunk Gravity Main (CTGM) between Tarro and Duckenfield to improve the reliability of the Lower Hunter's water supply.

Built in 1923, the pipeline carries about 40 per cent of the region's water from Chichester Dam to Newcastle.

Hunter Water has been upgrading sections of the ageing infrastructure since 2009, with an 8 kilometre section between Tarro and Duckenfield the latest to be replaced underground.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin said it was a priority project to ensure service reliability for Hunter Water's customers.

"The CTGM delivers approximately 65 million litres of water every day, or more than a third of the region's total water supply.

"At a cost of \$43 million, this is a critical project to ensure the people of the Lower Hunter continue to have a reliable and secure water supply. Hunter Water has fast-tracked the project by more than a year to see to it that this important work is done as soon as possible.

"The work involves replacing the pipeline underground, starting with a 3.3 kilometre section near Millers Forest, which is prone to breaks during periods of high water demand. At the same time, work is underway to remove the old pipe, with the project to be completed by November 2019," said Mr Harwin.

Hunter Water Managing Director Jim Bentley said this section of pipeline is one of the biggest known point sources of leakage in Hunter Water's network.

"One of the issues with this pipeline is that it was constructed of a system called locking bar pipe. While this is designed to allow movement, the movement eventually results in leakage.

"It's estimated that our maintenance crews fix more than 1000 leaks each year on this section alone.

"It's important that we all *Love Water* and conserve our precious resource, so I'm really pleased to see this project get underway," said Mr Bentley.