



 Iplex Pipelines general manager Nicole Sumich, Mundingburra MP Coralee O'Rourke and Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill. Picture: Shae Beplate

## BUSINESS

# Big response with pipe maker advertising first jobs in Townsville

TONY RAGGATT, Townsville Bulletin

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PIPE maker RPC Technologies is rolling out the jobs for Townsville's Houghton Pipeline Duplication Project in readiness for a start to work later this month.

The Australian manufacturer of glass reinforced polyester pipe is a partner with Iplex Australia which won the tender to supply the pipe for the water supply project.



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The company is advertising on Seek for a forklift operator/rigger/yard hand to manage and move large diameter piping, a quality control/safety officer, pipe fitters to set out and fit large diameter pipe spools, fibreglass laminators to apply fibreglass material for joints on large diameter pipes.

General labourers and an office clerk are also sought.

Iplex will supply the pipe, made by RPC at its Lonsdale plant in Adelaide, for the 36.5km pipeline, while GRP fittings will be manufactured in Townsville by cutting the pipe into segments for bends, T-joints and other segments.

Iplex is also reopening its polyethylene plant in Townsville, employing another 20 people, to supply polyethylene pipe of up to 1m diameter to the mining and civil construction markets.

More jobs are being created in logistics and transport.

Acting Mayor Les Walker said the Iplex contract ensured up to 50 advanced manufacturing jobs would be based in the city.

“The fixtures and fittings for the pipeline will be made locally here and that means jobs for locals,” Cr Walker said.

“The contract to build the pipes for our pipeline will secure more than 50 direct and indirect jobs for Townsville.

“Local jobs keep flowing and we can expect even more to be created when Iplex restarts its manufacturing operation early next year.”

Cr Walker said the pipeline was the council’s most important infrastructure project and a crucial plank in its three-point water security solution of the pipeline, recycled water re-use system and Community Water Transition Support Package

The State Government has committed \$225 million to water security in Townsville.

