



Drilling works start on Houghton pipeline project

REGIONAL NEWS

Pipe dreams heading to the south

JOHN ANDERSEN, Townsville Bulletin

March 16, 2019 1:00am

 Subscriber only



THERE are concerns surrounding South Australian-made pipes being used in the Townsville water pipeline from the Burdekin River.

The fact they were sourced from interstate and not by an engineering firm in Townsville or North Queensland is causing angst in some quarters. Having them made at home would have created extra apprenticeships and jobs.

With the tender going to Adelaide firm Iplex Pipelines, it is SA that gets the jobs windfall.



Chairman of Townsville Water Security Taskforce Brad Webb at the Haughton Pipeline near Ross River Dam discussing Townsville's water security. Picture: Shae Beplate.

Chairman of the Townsville Water Security Task Force Brad Webb told me this week that Townsville City Council couldn't knock back the \$40 million saving by taking the Adelaide option.

Shattering view on glass

One pipe manufacturing specialist I spoke to questioned the shelf life of the glass-reinforced polymer pipes being used.

He said steel pipes with a cement lining were the norm for the transport of drinking water. This person said glass-polymer pipes are difficult and costly to lay and that there is increased likelihood of breakage.

Opposing opinions

BRAD Webb disagrees with this and says there could be some confusion with another brand of similarly made pipes made by yet another manufacturer.

He said the SA Iplex pipes had been thoroughly tested and that engineers had given them the thumbs up. What's more they come with a 40 year warranty.

Another pipeline boffin I spoke told me: “But, keep in mind that once they are in the ground the job is done. If they do break, it is then up to the government to pay to fix them.”

Calling all hire cars


LOCAL hire car companies are being run off their feet. Demand is unprecedented.

The Townsville floods and work on the flood damaged Flinders Highway and Townsville-Mt Isa rail line have all combined to create an urgent need for vehicles. And over the last three weeks there have been calls coming in from companies working on the Haughton River bridge upgrade.

With the Federal election due on or before May 18 one would think that the blokes and blokesses in the hi-viz shirts and hard hats will be showing up at the bridge crossing any day now?

Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen says this is indeed the fact and that work would have already started if it wasn't for the upheaval of the Townsville flood.



 Allan and Mary Paine will move from the station they have called home for more than 50 years all for the good of Hughenden.

Paines part from station

ALLAN and Mary Paine are prepared to move from the station they have called home for 55 years of married life all for the good of Hughenden.

Allan, 76, has lived on Torver Valley Station for 66 years. He moved there with his parents when he was 10.

Mary, 78, moved to the station after the couple married in 1964.

Much of the property will be under water when a proposed 300,000 megalitre dam is built on Fairlight Creek which runs through Torver Valley.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has already promised \$180 million for the \$350 million dam with the balance coming from private investors.

The dam when completed will irrigate an approximate area of 10,000 hectares.

When it happens it will be the first major irrigation scheme to get underway in inland Queensland.

“We are happy to sell for the sake of the dam and the town. We’ve been saying for 30 years or more how good a dam here would be for Hughenden,” the Paines said.

Mr and Mrs Paine believe that the dam will do for Hughenden what the Fairbairn Dam did for Emerald after it was completed on the Nogoia River in 1972.

Emerald, a beef town, before the dam was built, is now one of Australia’s leading cotton and cropping centres. The town is still a hub for beef production.

The bonds that form from living at Torver Valley for such a long time can never be undone, not entirely.

But, there are bonds that are even stronger that tie Mr Paine to the land. These are the five graves of his great grandparents and their children and their granddaughter and daughter-in-law who were swept away in a flash flood on New Year’s Day 1917. Nine people were in the two storey corrugated iron structure at the time.

Parents John and Clare Jenkinson perished when Fairlight Creek, swollen with storm water from up in its catchment, came thundering down without warning.

In those days there were no phones, no two way radios, for people living in upstream areas to warn downstream station owners of flash floods headed their way.

The unexpected wall of water arrived in the early evening, rising rapidly through the house, eventually washing it from its stumps.

John and Clare Jenkinson’s son John and his wife Ellen drowned along with their two year old daughter, Ivy.

Ellen was heavily pregnant with her second child and could not climb to the roof of the house.

Loyal to the end, John (Jnr) and Ivy stayed with her downstairs and were swept to their fate. Four family members survived by balancing on the steep roof of the

house as it floated away down the creek. They were saved when the house floated past a large gum tree which they jumped onto, clinging to its branches until the floodwater subsided.

At least three of the graves will go under water when the dam is built.

Mr and Mrs Paine said they were happy to sell or to receive a fair price under a land resumption package.



 The flooded Nogoia River covers the Vince Lester Bridge that runs into the Queensland town of Emerald . Behind engineers check the rail bridge that is the only access into town.

Nogoia’s name origin

RELATED CONTENT

 **Tragedy brings us together**



 **Man loses \$12k of goods after lock out**



I MENTIONED the Nogoia River. Do you know how it got its name?

Back in the mists of time the explorer Edmund Kennedy was said to be pushing through that part of what is now known as Central Queensland with his Aboriginal

guide, Jacky Jacky. They came to a watercourse that was bank to bank in flood. It was a raging torrent.

Kennedy spurred his horse on to swim across, but Jacky Jacky sensing danger shouted “Nogoa, boss. Nogoa.” That is how the Nogoa got its name. Believe it or not.



aneway Gold moved dongas to its start-up gold mine at Agate Creek 40kms south of Forsayth this week Photo: Supplied.

Gold mine takes shape

NORTH Queensland’s newest gold mine is about to kick off at Agate Creek 40km south of Forsayth.

The trucks with dongas on the back were lined up in Forsayth on Wednesday.

The camp will start with 20 jobs and increase to 80 when onsite processing increases output from 100,000 tonnes to 700,000 tonnes.

The mine as the crow flies is just to the south-west of the old Kidston gold mine and is 250kms NNW of Townsville.



Cardwell seaman Francis 'Frisco' Watkins could talk underwater with a mouthful of anchor chain.
Picture: Wesley Monts
