



By **Rachael Andrews**

Construction has started on a 42km private pipeline from Wellington which will be the lifeline for two Langhorne Creek vineyards in the upcoming season.

The pipeline, which will pump a continuous flow of water from Wellington to Langhorne Creek, will supply water to CMV Farms and FABAL vineyards. Other growers along the route can also pay to access water from the pipeline. The two companies built the pipeline to ensure they had water available for their next season as a Federal Government funded pipeline, announced recently, would not be operational for up to two years.

Construction of the single pipeline began in June and will be finished in October in time for the next growing

season.

FABAL administration officer Irene Kamm said she was unable to estimate a cost for the project, but said another pipeline along the same route could be constructed depending on supply interest from other growers.

“If that water (from the pipeline) wasn’t supplied they wouldn’t have sufficient water to start the 2008/09 vintage season,” Ms Kamm said.

Irrigators have been given a 2% allocation at the start 2008/09 water year, with a 50% chance that will go up to 30% before the end of the 12 months.

However CMV and FABAL would not be able to access this allocation without the construction of the new pipeline.