Pickles

MEDIA RELEASE

End of an era for second-generation Colac civil works business

13 May 2026: A second-generation Colac civil works business is preparing to mark the end of an era, with McNaughton Excavations offering a significant range of earthmoving, plant, vehicles, and equipment through a major online auction with Pickles.

Founded in 1980 by John and Catherine McNaughton, McNaughton Excavations has been a family owned and operated business for more than four decades. Built from the ground up, the business has become a staple of the Colac community and a recognised local name in civil works, subdivisions, drainage, water, sewer, and road works across the region.

Today, the business is run by Peter McNaughton, continuing the family connection established by the previous generation.

Now, after decades of operation, Peter has made the decision to step away from running the business day to day and move into the next stage of his career, while remaining active in the civil works industry.

The McNaughton Excavations End of an Era Sale will be conducted online by Pickles, with approximately 30-35 assets expected to be offered across earthmoving, mobile plant, vehicles, trailers, and associated equipment.

The sale is expected to attract interest from civil contractors, local government suppliers, regional operators, construction businesses, farmers, and owner-operators looking for quality used plant and equipment from a well-regarded local business.

Peter McNaughton said the decision marked a major personal and professional milestone.

“This business has been part of my family for most of my life. It was started by my father and built from the ground up, and I’m proud of the work we have delivered and the relationships we have built across Colac and the broader region,” says McNaughton.

“This is not about walking away from the industry. I still enjoy the work and I still have a lot to contribute, but the time is right for me to step back from running the business day to day and focus on the next chapter.

“The equipment has been well maintained and has supported many important projects over the years. I’m pleased it will now have the opportunity to keep working for other operators and businesses.”

Alex Moore, Sales Executive – Industrial at Pickles, said the sale reflected the strength of long-standing regional businesses and the importance of trusted relationships when owners reach major transition points.

“McNaughton Excavations is a well-known name in Colac and the surrounding region, and this sale represents a rare opportunity for buyers to access quality civil, earthmoving and associated equipment from a respected family business,” says Moore.

“Peter came to Pickles through a trusted family recommendation, which says a lot about the role relationships play in regional business. These sales are not just about putting assets to market; they’re about understanding the vendor’s goals, managing the process carefully, and helping achieve the right outcome for the business owner.

“For buyers, the appeal is clear. The assets come from an established operator with a long history of quality workmanship, professional service, and well-maintained equipment. For Peter, it is about closing one chapter with care while staying connected to an industry he knows well.”

Over more than four decades, McNaughton Excavations has contributed to civil works across Colac and the broader region, giving the sale strong local significance as well as buyer appeal.

The auction will be conducted via Pickles.com.au, allowing buyers to bid from anywhere in Australia.

Auction details

Auction:	McNaughton Excavations End of an Era Sale
Auction platform:	Pickles.com.au
Auction opens:	9:00 a.m. AEST Tuesday 26 May
Auction closes:	5:00 p.m. AEST Thursday 28 May
Inspection:	Tuesday 26 May and Wednesday 27 May 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. AEST
Enquiries:	Alex Moore, Pickles: 0490 431 351 / 1300 052 392

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Download Photos and Videos of McNaughton Excavations Assets Here

ABOUT PICKLES

Pickles is Australia’s leading marketplace for used motor vehicles, industrial, mining, oil & gas, construction, general goods and salvage assets, offering thousands of quality items across hundreds of monthly, online auctions. With more than 60 years’ experience selling on behalf of trusted vendors including government departments, major financial institutions, fleet, lease, and insurance companies, and major corporates, Pickles offers customers value, flexibility, and convenience.
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For further information or to organise an interview, please contact:
Kelly Drew: 0418 486 959 / kelly.drew@stratcollective.com.au