

sugarloaf

pipeline project

Community Newsletter **October 2007**

Community Newsletter

Project Background:

Melbourne Water is working with GHD and SKM as a project alliance to build the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project. This pipeline project is a component of the Victorian Government's *Our Water, Our Future* plan to make more efficient use of the water resources we do have, as well as create new sources of water via a desalination plant at Wonthaggi.

Water saved by the Food Bowl Modernisation Project will be shared between irrigators, the environment, and Melbourne. The Sugarloaf Pipeline will deliver Melbourne's share of this saved water from the Goulburn River near Yea to the Sugarloaf Reservoir for Melbourne's water supply.

Landowner visits well underway

Melbourne Water representatives have been on the road for the past several weeks visiting people living along the pipeline investigation corridor, providing information about the project, seeking permission to access private property and explaining important next steps. The visits will continue until the end of October.

Obtaining access to private property has been an important aspect of the visits, to enable detailed flora and fauna, cultural heritage and geotechnical field surveys to begin on private property.

Our visits with landowners have also allowed us to better understand the human impacts of this project, and how residents are worried about ways the pipeline might affect their lives and livelihoods.

Our representatives are grateful to the many people they have met during the visits, who despite opposing the project, have given them a fair hearing and understood that the teams have a job to do in providing and seeking information.

Field Surveying Work Has Commenced:

Our field teams have recently commenced their important surveying work on State and private land. All staff in the field will follow strict guidelines on the lawful entry of private property, as well as strict protocols to prevent the transmission of plant and animal diseases including *Equine Influenza* and *Grape Phylloxera*.

A rigorous planning and approvals process is a key aspect of this project, including environmental, flora and fauna and cultural heritage surveys, as well as geotechnical investigations and surveying.

Should you have questions or suggestions regarding these survey works, please contact the project team on 1 800 453 753 or via email at: sugarloafinfo@melbournewater.com.au.

Agency Group established

An Agency Reference Group has been established so that key stakeholders involved in the planning approvals process are regularly briefed about project progress and can provide feedback on our actions.

Membership includes the Shires of Murrindindi and Yarra Ranges, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Environmental Protection Authority, the Department of Planning and Community Development, VicRoads, Parks Victoria, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Vic Track, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, Goulburn Murray Water, and Yarra Valley Water.

As part of their role, each of the agencies will outline the environmental and legislative process needed to satisfy their requirements for approval of the project.

The Agency Group's first meeting was held in early October and involved an update on project activities, discussions around the approvals process, as well as a tour of Winneke Treatment Plant and the various pipeline alignments under investigation.

Sugarloaf Pipeline Project

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Our Water Our Future
A Victorian Government initiative



Melbourne Water, GHD and SKM are working as an alliance to deliver the Sugarloaf Pipeline Project.

Melbourne Water rules out buying additional water

Melbourne Water has categorically ruled out entering the market to buy water as a result of the Food Bowl Modernisation Project.

The organisation issued a media statement on 21 September ruling this out after unsubstantiated claims that Melbourne Water had expressed an intention to enter the market.

Melbourne Water's Acting Managing Director, Eamonn Kelly, said the claims were incorrect.

"Melbourne Water has absolutely no plans to enter either the temporary or permanent water market to acquire further water rights."

Finalising the pipeline route

As part of the initial feasibility study, a preferred pipeline corridor was selected and announced when the Water Plan was released in June.

This corridor travels south from the Goulburn River near Yea, parallel to the Melba Highway to Sugarloaf Reservoir, west of Yarra Glen. The route includes private farmland and public land.

Discussions have been held with landowners and other key stakeholders along the route, with alternate routes being considered. These alternatives include bringing the pipeline further south along the Melba Highway and then via Gulf Road or Pinnacle Lane in Yarra Glen. All options are being investigated as part of the process to define the final alignment.

Confirmation of an alignment will take place over the next two months, following further detailed planning and environmental investigations and community input.

We are currently developing a pipeline route selection process that takes into account social, environmental, engineering and cost factors so that we can choose the best possible alignment for the region's needs. This selection process and an overview of the current list of alignment options will publicly displayed for comment at further Community Information Sessions between 10 and 17 November across the region.

Community Information Sessions Planned for November

As landowners and community members along the potential pipeline corridor, we hope to see you at one of the five Community Information Sessions Melbourne Water will be hosting throughout the region so that you can learn more about the investigative surveying work.

These sessions will last approximately three hours each, and will be informal, drop-in events. **There will be no formal public presentation at these sessions**, as we prefer to focus on hearing your concerns about potential impacts on your communities and properties. We will instead have project staff, including engineers and designers, on-hand to answer your questions directly and share facts about the project with you personally.

We hope to see you there!

Sessions are scheduled for:

Date	Time	Venue
10 November	10 am to 1 pm	Toolangi CJ Dennis Hall
10 November	3 pm to 6 pm	Kinglake Kinglake Neighbourhood House
13 November	4 pm to 7 pm	Yea The Shire Hall - The Semi Circle
14 November	4 pm to 7 pm	Glenburn Glenburn Community Hall - Melba Highway
17 November	1 pm to 4 pm	Yarra Glen Yarra Glen Community Hall - Melba Highway