

sugarloaf

pipeline project

Fact Sheet March 2008

In June 2007, the Victorian Government released *Our Water Our Future - The next stage of the Government's Water Plan*, outlining a number of major infrastructure projects to help secure Melbourne's future water supply.

Even with active water conservation, these projects are necessary to provide for our increasing population. They are also designed to address the issue of climate change, which scientific studies show will significantly reduce Melbourne's rainfall.

Projects identified by the Water Plan include:

- the creation of new water through the construction of a desalination plant
- upgrading the Eastern Treatment Plant to produce 100 billion litres of recycled water by 2012
- reconnection of the Tarago Reservoir in 2009, and
- a \$1 billion project to save water through modernising irrigation and other infrastructure in the Goulburn Murray Region - Victoria's food bowl.

Stage one of the Food Bowl Modernisation Project, being managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, is expected to save up to 225 billion litres annually. These water savings will be shared equally between the irrigation system, the environment and Melbourne. Melbourne's 75 billion litre share will be delivered via the Sugarloaf Pipeline.

Melbourne Water is contributing \$300 million towards the Food Bowl modernisation project in return for a share of the water savings.

Project outline

Melbourne Water is responsible for constructing the \$750 million Sugarloaf Pipeline, linking the Goulburn River catchment to Melbourne's water supply system.

Works to be managed by Melbourne Water include:

- A Goulburn River intake pumping station and associated infrastructure, including water storage facilities and the supply of power to the pumping station
- A 70 kilometre pipeline from the Goulburn River near Yea to Sugarloaf Reservoir in Melbourne's north east
- An upgrade of the existing Winneke Water Treatment Plant to increase its capacity, and
- Connection to the existing Melbourne Water distribution network.

Where the water is coming from

The Food Bowl Modernisation Project aims to capture up to 450 billion litres of water each year that is currently lost due to leaks, evaporation and other inefficiencies in the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation System.

The first stage of the project will secure up to 225 billion litres annually of saved water.

This water will be shared equally between farmers, the environment (through additional river flows) and Melbourne Water's urban users, who comprise 72% of Victoria's population).

At the end of this project, farmers will have a 21st century irrigation system, allowing them to be more productive and providing them with more water than before.

Pipeline route

The Pipeline Project involves building a 70 kilometre pipeline to link the Goulburn River catchment to the Sugarloaf Reservoir, north east of Melbourne.

While a preferred corridor has been identified, the specific route alignment has not been finalised. This is subject to State and Federal Government approvals processes. It will also involve close consultation with affected landowners and local councils as part of the detailed design process, which Melbourne Water is undertaking now.

The preferred corridor for the Sugarloaf Pipeline travels south from the Goulburn River near Yea, along the Melba Highway, via Gulf Road to Steels Creek Road and then on to Sugarloaf Reservoir, west of Yarra Glen. This corridor includes private farmland and public land.

In most cases, there will be a requirement to acquire an easement rather than acquire land. The final easement for the pipeline will be approximately 15 metres wide.

Sugarloaf Pipeline Project

GPO Box 4342
Melbourne VIC 3001

Telephone (toll-free) 1800 453 753
Email sugarloafinfo@melbournewater.com.au
melbournewater.com.au/sugarloaf



Our Water Our Future
A Victorian Government initiative



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

As part of our design process, thorough environmental, geological, cultural heritage and planning studies have been carried out to support the necessary approval applications and help determine a preferred corridor. This corridor represents what we consider is the best possible environmental, social, technical and economic outcome.

Particular attention has been paid to minimising the impact on the environment and the community.

In addition to Melbourne Water's stringent policies and procedures covering community, environmental and occupational health and safety matters, the project will involve meeting relevant legislative obligations.

A key focus of our construction works involves the reinstatement of land once the pipeline has been laid. As part of our normal program, Melbourne Water will work with land owners to return the relevant parcel of land as near as possible to its former condition.

Figure 1 shows how the pipeline will fit with irrigation infrastructure.

Figure 1 Food Bowl Modernisation and the Sugarloaf Pipeline



Project management

Melbourne Water is working as part of an alliance with GHD, SKM and John Holland to deliver the Sugarloaf Pipeline. We have considerable experience and expertise in similar projects, including construction of pipelines along major arterial roads and through environmentally sensitive areas.

We undertake such projects in strict accordance with comprehensive environmental and community policies and procedures. A dedicated team of specialists has been brought together to deliver this project.

Keeping you informed

It is our aim to make contact with key stakeholders involved in, or affected by, the project. This includes local landowners, the community, local councils, Government departments and agencies. A community and stakeholder relations team is supporting this effort.

Information is readily available through a variety of sources, including:

- information bulletins and fact sheets
- a regular column in local newspapers highlighting project developments
- updates to the project website
- periodic community information sessions, and
- a toll free telephone enquiries number

Signs will also be erected near construction sites advising of intended works.

More information

If you would like more information or to speak with someone about the **Sugarloaf Pipeline Project**, please telephone our toll free number - 1800 453 753 or email us at sugarloafinfo@melbournewater.com.au

More information about the project is also available at www.melbournewater.com.au/sugarloaf or www.ourwater.vic.gov.au

For questions relating to the **Food Bowl Modernisation Project**, please contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment call centre on 136 186.