



27 July 2008

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SURVEY WORKS NEAR YEA

1. What are these survey works?

These are vital geotechnical investigations that will help us design the low lift pump station, which is proposed to be built on this site. The work is purely for investigative purposes and will allow engineering teams to assess the geological conditions that would be encountered during construction.

2. Where are these works taking place?

Works will take place at a site next to Killingworth Reserve on the Goulburn River, near Yea. It will occur in an area which has already been identified as being suitable for placement of the proposed low lift pump station. Most of the works will be on private land, which is allowed for under Section 133 of the *Water Act (1989)*. A work area of approximately 120 x 100 metres will be fenced off in the interests of safety. A designated site for protesters has been set aside next to the work area.

3. What do the investigations involve?

There are two aspects to the survey work: digging test pits and drilling bores.

Three test pits will be dug to a depth 1 metre below the water table. The water table is expected to be encountered at a level of 4 metres deep; however, this may vary down to a level of 8 metres. The width of the test pits will start at 1.2 metres, although the final width will depend on the required depth and nature of material encountered. The pits are expected to be 5 metres long. These pits are needed to take large gravel samples that will allow us to test for density, silt, clay, and particle size, which cannot adequately be assessed by vertical investigation bores.

Nineteen bores will be drilled to depths of between 6 and 35 metres to enable soil, rock and groundwater investigations to be undertaken. Six groundwater observation wells will also be installed to monitor groundwater conditions. They consist of a PVC casing with lockable cover, approximately 20cm in diameter and cemented into place. The observation wells will be used to monitor groundwater behaviour prior to construction of the pumping station.

Only water required to undertake the investigations will be extracted from the bores. Any water extracted will be returned to the Goulburn River if it meets EPA guidelines. Otherwise, it will be stored offsite for reuse at a later date.

4. Is this the start of construction?

No – this work is for investigation purposes only. Construction work cannot commence until the necessary conditions and approvals have been granted by the Victorian and Federal Governments.

5. Do you have approval to do this work?

Yes – all necessary permissions have been obtained from the relevant authorities.

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The Water Act gives Melbourne Water legal entitlement to conduct these survey works on public and private land.

As the works are investigative only and not construction, the Federal Government has confirmed they are **not** a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*; therefore, referral of the investigative works for approval is not required.

Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation has confirmed that Melbourne Water is entitled to construct test bores.

6. How long will these particular survey works take?

Excavation of the test pit is expected to take about a week. Drilling work is expected to take about a month.

7. What type of equipment will be used?

A 20 tonne excavator is required due to the size and depth of the test pits. Up to two drill rigs will also be used for the geotechnical and groundwater drilling.

Each drill rig will be accompanied by a 10 tonne utility service vehicle. Groundwater monitoring equipment will also be used, including a small pump.

8. How will you protect the environment during these investigations?

A certified ecologist and a team of cultural heritage specialists will assess the site before investigations begin to ensure no harm is caused to any sensitive or listed ecological or cultural resources. All work will be conducted in accordance with a site Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Areas such as drip zones around River Red Gums will be avoided. A protective ground cover will be laid around the drill site to collect any waste materials and fluids produced during drilling. Waste material will be removed from the site for disposal.

9. How will you reinstate disturbed ground?

We have committed to reinstating work areas and disturbed ground to a condition as good, if not better, than prior to work commencing. Spoil from the test pits will be stored at the site and returned to the pit on completion of the work. A final site inspection by the landowner will be conducted to verify a suitable standard of clean up and reinstatement.

10. What if protesters attempt to stop the survey works?

We respect people's right to protest lawfully; however, Section 288 of the Water Act prohibits interference with works or equipment. If protesters attempt to stop the survey works, it will become a matter for Victoria Police.

11. Why are these works done under the Water Act instead of the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act?

Melbourne Water will be constructing the pipeline under the provisions of the Water Act (1989). Melbourne Water can compulsorily acquire the pipeline easement and the process for this is outlined in the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act. Consultation is being undertaken with affected landowners.

