



Australian Government

Water for the Future



Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline – Community Impacts

The Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline is being developed by the NSW Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Bega Valley Shire Council. The pipeline route passes through some sections of private agricultural land and would therefore affect the operations of these farms. The pipeline also passes through Wolumla village and Bega township and may cause some inconvenience to residents during the construction phase.

Private farmland impacts

The installation of the Bega to Yellow Pinch Pipeline would create temporary soil disturbance that would affect the productive capacity of that land in the short term. Access for contractors may also inconvenience farm operations. Stock may need to be restricted from the works area during and immediately following the installation of the pipeline.

Air valves and scour valves used to drain the pipe, would be located in concrete housings protruding approximately 400mm above the ground surface. These structures potentially represent a hazard to farm machinery if they become obscured by vegetation.

Broader community impacts

The pipeline route will pass through access roads and driveways servicing small businesses and residential homes in the area. This will be most evident in the village of Wolumla where the pipeline will be located on Bega Street and Phillip Street. During the construction works, excavation machinery will be present within the village which may create an inconvenience for businesses and residents. The presence of machinery, construction staff and materials will also impact on the visual values of the area, which include the rural urban environment of Wolumla and the agricultural and natural setting of the Bega Valley. Excavation works will result in disturbed soil and cleared vegetation, while some pipeline infrastructure and permanent sediment trapping structures will be visible from Princes Highway. These impacts would be temporary for the duration of the construction works, decreasing as the route becomes revegetated.

The potential exists to disturb some services in the area during excavation works, such as existing underground water and electricity. Some blasting may be required that could potentially affect sensitive electronic equipment resulting in the loss of power supplies. Traffic delays are expected as



part of the pipeline construction, though these would be of short duration, limited to sections of the highway where construction work is occurring along with an increase in traffic due to construction vehicles utilising the road.

Measures to reduce impacts

Steps would be taken to reduce the inconvenience of the construction works on residents in Bega and Wolumla as well as on private property. These include:

- Residents who would be directly affected would be contacted regarding the works timing and any specific measures to reduce inconvenience. Newsletters and newspaper articles would also be disseminated to the broader community.
- Engaging the community in a consultation process to identify locally important issues and potential impacts.
- All work would be undertaken within the minimum timeframe possible.
- The location of any underground services such as phone and electricity lines would be determined before construction.
- Farmland affected by the trenching would be sown with suitable pastures species in consultation with the land owners immediately following the works
- Construction contractors would be required to maintain access to private properties during construction.
- Any private roads impacted by the works would be restored to their original condition immediately following the works.
- Progressive rehabilitation of the pipeline trench would be undertaken to minimise soil disturbance and potential for weeds.
- Works would be staged to minimise the disruption time at any one location.
- A traffic management plan would be implemented on public roads.
- Construction materials would be located in positions to avoid danger to motorists.
- If blasting is required near sensitive receivers, then measures would be taken to ensure that they are not disrupted during the blasting process (contact with affected residents, noise monitoring).

