



The Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline

NEWSLETTER 2 May 2009

The Bega to Yellow Pinch Water Transfer Pipeline is being developed by the Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) in collaboration with the NSW Department of Commerce (DOC). nghenvironmental is a local environmental consultancy appointed by BVSC to engage the local community, provide information about the project and collate community feedback on potential issues arising from the pipeline construction.

This newsletter to key stakeholders is to provide you with the answers to a range of questions raised during the consultation process. Please note, additional information can be obtained by contacting Ally Madden of nghenvironmental -

Phone: (02) 6492 8313

Email: pipeline@nghenvironmental.com.au

Post: PO Box 470 Bega 2550

Also, see the Bega Valley Shire Council's Website for updates on the project:

http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Water_Sewerage/bega-yellow_pipeline/pipeline.htm

Location of the pipeline

Can the pipeline be located in the road verge rather than on private properties?

The pipeline designers have attempted to stay outside of private properties wherever possible. However, in some areas the road verge is not wide enough and, due to safety concerns or natural constraints, the pipeline has been located within private property boundaries.

Will the pipeline be located on private property at any Wolumla residence?

The pipeline will only be located outside private property fence lines in Wolumla, generally within the road surface.

Can the pipeline be attached to the Kingswood Bridge?

This is not an option due to the structural capacity of the culvert bridge.

Water use

Will the water in the pipeline be accessible to landholders or to future developments?

The water in the pipeline will be untreated and therefore unsuitable for consumption. Further, the transfer pipeline will only be utilised during times when the flow in the Bega River is sufficient to allow extraction of licensed volumes for transfer to Yellow Pinch Dam. During low flow times in the Bega River, the transfer pipeline will be off-line. For these and other reasons the transfer pipeline will not be accessible to landholders or future developments between Bega and Yellow Pinch Dam.

Would water supply and pressure be maintained in Wolumla during construction works?

Water supply and pressure in Wolumla village will be maintained during the construction works. The Wolumla reservoir component of the works will be undertaken after a replacement of the existing reservoir





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When will pumping occur?

Pumps will operate only if water is required at the Yellow Pinch Dam and if there is sufficient flow in the Bega River to allow licenced volumes to be pumped from the Bega borefield to Yellow Pinch Dam.

What size pumps are being proposed?

Pumps will be installed in stages, with two multistage centrifugal pumps capable of delivering 5 - 10ML/day commissioned initially. Ultimately there will be three multistage centrifugal pumps that are designed to cater for an ultimate transfer of 20 ML/day (213 L/s).

Easement use

What restrictions would be placed on use of pipeline easements? Could fences, paths, roads or buildings be constructed within the easement?

Two arrangements are required where the pipeline crosses onto private land; a construction lease (to allow work to occur on private property during construction) and a water pipeline easement (established after the pipeline has been constructed, to compensate affected property owners).

The construction lease will be for a width of between 10 - 20m. New fences, paths, roads or buildings will not be permitted in the construction lease area during construction period. After construction, a 5m wide easement will be created. Roads, paths, cropping (ploughing to a maximum depth of 300mm) are all acceptable within the final easement. However, no buildings or digging to depths greater than 300mm are allowed. Access along the easement must be maintained in case of emergencies.

What access arrangements will exist for construction leases and easements on private land?

Access will be granted to landholders for the areas affected by the construction lease and water pipeline easement.

What are the legal implications of accidental damage to the line?

The pipe will be constructed from ductile iron or similar and will be extremely durable. The pipeline will also be clearly marked and covered to a minimum depth of 450mm; therefore the chance of accidental damage will be low. Ground disturbance (e.g. ploughing) to a maximum depth of 300mm is allowable over the pipeline easement, excavations below this depth is not permitted. Legal requirements will exist under the easement acquisition contract to ensure no deliberate damage to the pipe would occur.

Construction procedures and materials

When will the final design be ready?

The project is currently in the detailed design phase. Construction of the pipeline will begin in the latter half of 2009.

Will the pipeline easements be restored after construction is complete?

Pipeline easements along the entire route will be rehabilitated post-construction. Weed maintenance along the easement will also be provided by Council for up to 2 years, targeting fireweed and other problem species. Council will also offer landholders with easements on their properties fertiliser supply for 2 years to ensure restoration is complete. As a guarantee that the areas will be left in a stable and weed free state, landholders will be asked to





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'sign off' on the construction Contractor's work, prior to them receiving final payment. Photos will be taken before and after to assist in this process.

Where the old highway pavement will be affected, what condition will it be left in?

The old highway will be restored to its existing condition. In some areas, if required, it will be removed.

What month would works occur in particular properties or locations? Would notice be given?

Construction timetables on private properties will be negotiated with landholders. The wider community will also be informed of the construction timetable via the media (articles printed in the Bega District News and newsletters sent to affected persons).

What is the pipeline constructed out of, how resilient will it be? What is the likelihood and procedure for a burst main?

The final pipeline material will be determined by Tender, however is likely to be ductile iron, steel or glass reinforced plastic. The pipeline has a 450mm nominal diameter and will be buried to a minimum depth of 450mm. It is highly unlikely that there will be a burst main however, in the event of a burst main Council would require immediate access (to be detailed in the easement acquisition agreement). Council will also be required to enter the property to undertake infrequent maintenance works. Council will undertake to contact the landholder prior to entry in an emergency. A letter detailing maintenance schedules will be sent to landholders at least 14 days prior to undertaking routine maintenance works.

What are the stabilisation procedures, especially around drainage lines?

An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be prepared and implemented in accordance with the NSW Guidelines.

What are the wet weather construction procedures (to minimise compaction etc)?

Construction activities will be limited in wet weather to minimise environmental damage.

Maintenance of the pipeline

What ongoing line maintenance will be required?

Ongoing maintenance will be undertaken every 18 months or when appropriate to ensure no large trees are regrowing over the pipeline.

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