



## The Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline

### Wolumla Open House, 2009

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2009, an 'Open House' was held at the Wolumla Town Hall. The purpose of the Open House was to inform the community and in particular the residents of Wolumla, about the Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam Water Transfer Pipeline. Representatives from Bega Valley Shire Council, NSW Department of Commerce and **ngh**environmental were present. The Open House was designed to inform the residents of Wolumla and allow them to raise issues associated with the construction and operation of the pipeline.

The water transfer pipeline will run from the South Bega Reservoir to the existing inlet pipeline at Yellow Pinch Dam. It aims to improve water security of the Tantawanglo-Kiah water supply system, lessen extraction of water from Tantawanglo Creek and the Kiah Borefield and enhance operational flexibility. Construction will commence in late 2009.

The Open House was held in Wolumla Town Hall as the pipeline route will be located within the village of Wolumla. The pipeline will enter Bega Street, from the Princes Highway, on the south-western side, crossing Hillview Crescent and Candelo Wolumla Road/Scott Street before turning into Phillip Street. The Pipeline will run along the north-eastern side of Phillip Street to Momsen Street and then join up with the existing village reservoir.

This reservoir will be utilised as a balance tank and incorporated into the pipeline infrastructure. The pipeline will then run back along Momsen Street on the north-eastern side to join with Candelo Wolumla road and then rejoin with the Princes Highway.

### OPEN HOUSE ATTENDANCE

The Open House was advertised through the Merimbula and Bega local newspapers, with invitations left at the post office/general store and Wolumla hotel, as well.

Unfortunately, there was limited attendance at the Open House; twelve people registered their names. Of those, most indicated that they did not receive the invitation or see the advertisement.

During the Open House, to increase attendance, door knocking along Bega and Phillip Streets was undertaken to ensure these residents, who would be most affected by the works, were informed about the project. Approximately 26 residents were contacted in this way. The key issues raised are summarised overleaf.





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#### KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING THE OPEN HOUSE

##### **Disturbance of the nature strip**

In many areas, including Phillip Street, the nature strip has only recently recovered from works to install the sewer pipeline and there was concern over the additional disturbance the water pipeline would cause.

As a part of the water pipeline project, disturbed areas of nature strip will be stabilised and reseeded. Additional fill and topsoil will be brought in where required to ensure no overall adverse impact. A contract requirement is that the construction Contractor will be bound to obtain landholder sign-off on the satisfactory restoration of adjoining nature strips, prior to the final contract payment being made.

##### **Noise from construction and barking dogs**

Noise from construction works will comply with noise guidelines. The works will progress at approximately 50 metres per day, so generally noise outside any one residence should be confined to 1-3 days.

There was also a concern expressed that the work may lead to dogs barking more frequently. We would ask that dog owners do what is possible to calm barking dogs during the works and that residents please have additional patience with barking dogs at this time.

##### **Location of the pipeline through the village**

While the location of the pipeline is considered to be in the final design stage, it can be revised if needed to allow for better overall outcomes (including cost, disturbance to residents, impacts on private property and engineering constraints). Residents proposed a number of alternative routes and the feasibility of these routes is now being investigated. Advice to affected residents will be provided if the route is changed.

##### **Impact on the school**

The pipeline will be located in front of the Wolumla Primary School. Works directly outside the school may create some minor inconvenience during drop off and pick up times. However traffic management activities will be undertaken to minimise impacts. To make sure all parents and staff are aware of the activities, updates will be sent out with the school's P & C newsletter.

##### **Water supply changes**

A question asked at the Open House was whether the future water supply for Wolumla and trunk main connections west of the village would change.

During non-drought times, the water supply for Wolumla and all connected areas west of the village comes from Tantawanglo Creek weir, located in the South East Forest National Park about 22 km west-north-west of Wolumla. Water from the weir flows by gravity through a 300-225 mm diameter trunk main to supply Candelo, Wolumla, existing rural connections to the trunk main and Yellow Pinch Dam.





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During drought times when there is low flow in Tantawanglo Creek, the water stored in Yellow Pinch Dam is pumped upstream to supplement what is extracted from Tantawanglo Creek weir. As less water becomes available from the weir, more water is pumped from the dam. In March 2009, for the first time, all water was pumped from Yellow Pinch Dam and none extracted from Tantawanglo Creek.

In the future, with the Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam water transfer system, an additional supply of water will be available to fill Yellow Pinch Dam. Filling Yellow Pinch Dam solely from Tantawanglo Creek is becoming less secure as population and water demand grows and persistent drought and dry conditions reduce streamflow and available supply from the weir. The Bega to Yellow Pinch Dam water transfer system will allow larger volumes to be pumped into the dam over a shorter time, supplementing what can be sustainably supplied from Tantawanglo Creek weir.

Water, when pumped from Bega in future, will flow to Yellow Pinch Dam and not directly to Wolumla village or to west of Wolumla. The supply of water to Wolumla and west in future will be as it is today. That is, in non-drought times water will be supplied from Tantawanglo Creek and in drought times water will be pumped from Yellow Pinch Dam in increasing proportions as water availability from Tantawanglo Creek declines.

#### Construction during wet weather

The presence of springs and areas where stormwater backs up were identified by residents at the Open House. Works would not commence in wet weather to minimise the potential to create further environmental impacts. Sediment and erosion controls would accompany works, to ensure soil and water impacts are managed.

#### FOLLOW-UP

To address the insufficient notice given to Wolumla residents prior to the Open House, we are undertaking the following additional activities aimed at making sure that all residents are informed about the works and able to provide comments and ask questions:

1. Attached to this newsletter is a feedback form which you can fill out and return to **ng**henvironmental, PO Box 470 Bega 2550
2. Alternatively, residents can contact Ally Madden of **ng**henvironmental to find out more  
Phone: (02) 6492 8313    Email: [pipeline@ngenvironmental.com.au](mailto:pipeline@ngenvironmental.com.au)
3. An additional newsletter will be posted to all residents, closer to the date of the pipeline construction to update residents about any changes to the project
4. The Bega Valley Shire Council's website contains all material to date on the project:  
[http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Water\\_Sewerage/bega-yellow\\_pipeline/pipeline.htm](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Water_Sewerage/bega-yellow_pipeline/pipeline.htm)

**ng**henvironmental are committed to providing you with an opportunity to obtain information and put forward questions regarding the pipeline. We will endeavour to answer your questions, record the issues and relay these comments to the Bega Valley Shire Council and the NSW Department of Commerce.

