

Project Update
March 2010

Topics discussed at project Community Information Sessions

More than 70 people attended our two project community information sessions in Harcourt late last year.

The most discussed topics for the Castlemaine Link and Harcourt Modernisation Projects were:

- **Water allocations and restrictions**
- **Property impacts including vegetation**
- **New connections**
- **The Pipeline Alignment**
- **Flow rates**
- **Costs**
- **Private infrastructure requirements**

Some frequently asked questions we have received during the project are answered below.



Above and below: Members of the project team speaking with community members at the Community Information Sessions in Harcourt last December.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the investigations done at different times?

Different forms of investigations need to be undertaken at key times – for example when it is dry, or during the breeding season of certain species.

We also work with landholders to arrange site access at the most suitable times.

Whilst the construction of project is often the most visible, it is generally the investigations process that is the longest and most complicated.

Is my property still in the investigation area?

If you have been contacted to arrange access for the investigations teams, your property is within the current investigation area.

When all investigation reports have been completed and a design alignment is complete we will be able to confirm which properties will be involved.

When will specific property details be discussed?

As requirements will vary from each property, details such as connection points, cost, private infrastructure needs (eg. water storage) will be discussed during one-on-one meetings with each impacted landholder and rural customer.

When is construction likely to start?

We need to have the outcomes of the Business Case to make decisions about the two projects and to determine next steps.

Initially we scheduled construction for the Harcourt Modernisation project to commence in the second half of this year. Until the Business Case process is complete we can not lock in a construction commencement timeframe.



Project Progress

Castlemaine Link

The Castlemaine Link Project Business Case is with the Victorian Government for funding consideration.

Harcourt Modernisation

The Harcourt Modernisation Project Business Case is currently being prepared.

Our Harcourt Water Services Committee made up of local community members is providing input to the development of the Harcourt Modernisation Project Business Case.

The Business Case includes a section about project costs and impact on customer tariffs. Tariffs will reflect rural modernisation costs which are currently being calculated as part of our overall Rural Modernisation Plan.

Once completed the Business Case will be endorsed by the Harcourt Water Services Committee prior to presentation to the Board of Coliban Water.



Above: The project Agency Reference Group on a tour of the project area.

Investigations Update

Investigation	Current Status
Flora & Fauna	Investigation completed, awaiting final report
Cultural Heritage	Standard surface assessment completed. Complex sub-surface assessment expected to commence by May this year and to be completed in July this year
Topographical Survey	Investigation completed
Geotechnical	60% complete
Waterways Crossing	Investigations completed
Agricultural Assessment	To be undertaken in conjunction with one-on-one engagement with impacted landholders

What's next...

- Confirmation of the proposed pipeline alignment
- Commencement of one-on-one engagement with impacted landholders and rural customers
- Start of the complex cultural heritage investigation (sub-surface testing)
- Completion of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Submission of environmental and planning approvals
- Endorsement of Harcourt Modernisation Business Case by Harcourt Water Services Committee and Board of Coliban Water

We will continue to conduct regular meetings with the Project Agency Reference Group (ARG) and the Harcourt Water Services Committee.

More information

Telephone:

1800 135 904 (free call).

This operates between 8am and 7pm week days and from 8am -12noon on Saturdays.

Email

castlemainelink@coliban.com.au

This is checked and responded to on weekdays.

Website

www.coliban.com.au/projects/castlemainelink