

Project Update  
November 2009

## Community Information Sessions

These sessions are for the local community to find out more about the project and to provide feedback to the teams involved in the investigation work.

**Where:** ANA Hall, High Street Harcourt (next to Harcourt Tavern)

**When:** Thursday 3 December 4pm – 7pm

Saturday 5 December 9am – 12noon

**Why:** An opportunity to speak to members of the project team, ask questions, provide feedback, view display material and take home project fact sheets.

## The Projects

### Harcourt Rural Modernisation

This project is proceeding and will be approximately 56 kilometres of smaller pipeline to supply raw water to customers in the Harcourt rural irrigation area. The pipeline will replace aged and leaky channels.

### Castlemaine Link

We are investigating the construction of a pipeline to provide greater water security for Castlemaine customers. If the project goes ahead the pipeline will be from Sandhurst Reservoir south of Bendigo to Barkers Creek Reservoir in Harcourt and then to McCay Reservoir near Castlemaine – approximately 35 kilometres.

### Update on Project Timelines

In our last update we said there was a very tight time frame in which to deliver the Castlemaine Link project to supply water security for Castlemaine, Kyneton and surrounding towns.

We have had sufficient winter inflows into our catchment storages near Malmsbury to extend our time frame. We will complete the project investigation work and then a Business Case for the project to determine next steps.

## Progress on Projects

Progress since our August update:

- Door knock of landowner properties has been conducted in the Harcourt area
- Most of the pipeline alignment investigation is now complete
- Investigations (flora and fauna, topography, cultural heritage) are well advanced
- Meeting held with Harcourt Water Services Committee. Topics discussed were progress, proposed infrastructure and water outlet conditions
- Regular meetings have been held with our Agency Reference Group (ARG), made up of regulatory agencies, to assist with the processing of approvals
- Field survey work is nearly complete which will assist with detailed design.



Door knock of landowner properties

## About the pipeline investigation work

The following information is to explain the investigations work and why it needs to be done.

The proposed pipeline alignment includes sections within private property, Crown Land and road reserves. To choose the best pipeline alignment option we need to assess potential impacts to environment, heritage sites and the community.

## Investigations have included:

- Local vegetation and animal habitats (flora and fauna)
- Natural waterways (waterway crossings)
- Geography and rock formations/types (geotechnical)
- Infrastructure and services (survey)
- Indigenous and European places of cultural interest (heritage assessment)
- Agricultural (easement assessment and land rehabilitation)

Specialists carry out each type of investigation. Their findings help decide the preferred pipeline alignment and form part of a *Project Impact Assessment* report. This report forms part of the project approval process.

Each type of investigation can take several months to complete. The heritage investigation will take longer than originally expected to the high volume of indigenous artefacts we expect to uncover.

## Contact with Landowners and Tenants

Most of the investigation work so far has involved accessing private property.

In August we sent a formal *Notice of Entry* and we have been in contact with landowners through doorknocks and telephone calls to discuss access to private land for investigation work. Thank you to landowners and tenants for your assistance so far.

Field staff will continue to carry identification and leave information about investigation work. Some landowners have requested telephone contact prior to land being accessed for investigation.

We have several contractors assisting us with this investigation so if you have any feedback please use the Project Information Desk contact details.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will my property be impacted by the Castlemaine Link?

All landholders in the proposed pipeline alignment area have been contacted by direct mail, doorknock or by telephone. If you have not been contacted your property is not within this area.

### What happens next in the pipeline area?

If your property is in the preferred Castlemaine Link pipeline alignment area we will invite you to a face-to-face meeting to discuss what happens next. If this project goes ahead these meetings will start a few months into 2010.

We will also be arranging discussions with rural customers in the Harcourt area about the Harcourt Rural Modernisation project at the same time next year.



Sub surface test site



Clay from an indigenous oven



Anvil with hammer stone

## I live in or around Harcourt, so does that mean I'll be able to get water from the new rural system?

All existing customers will be offered a connection to the new pipeline.

Opportunities for new connections will be considered if requested by landowners.

We will not make a decision on new connections until the final pipeline alignment is decided.

## When will the Harcourt Modernisation Project pipeline be built?

Construction for the Rural Modernisation Project is likely to commence in the second half of 2010 depending on investigation and preliminary planning phases. Construction will take about six months.

## Detail about investigation work

### Cultural Heritage Assessment

Many indigenous artefacts were found during the initial investigation.

This highlights the area as being culturally sensitive for the Dja Dja Wurrung community.

Further sub-surface testing will be carried out to complete a *Complex Heritage Assessment Report* to meet obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

We expect this work to start in February 2010. It will identify areas of cultural or indigenous significance to help determine the final pipeline alignment.

**Anticipated Timing:**  
Standard Assessment -  
August 2009 to January 2010  
Complex Assessment –  
February 2010 until completion

### Topographical Survey

Surveyors have been working on foot and using Global Positioning System equipment to gather detailed information about the terrain and surface features.

**Anticipated Timing:**  
September 2009 to December 2009

### Geotechnical

Geotechnical studies look at the physical characteristics of the soil and rock.

Studies involve drilling 100 millimetre boreholes every 500 metres along roads or creeks within the area of investigation.

**Anticipated Timing**  
November 2009 to March 2010

### Waterway Crossings

There are numerous waterways. Many are very small and may not contain any water.

These waterways have been assessed to determine the most suitable crossing, required reinstatement and measures to minimise potential environmental impacts.

**Anticipated Timing:**  
September 2009 to November 2009

### Agricultural

Agricultural investigations will be used to assess land conditions and farming practices for properties within the investigation corridor.

Investigations are undertaken in consultation with each landholder.

The investigation reports will assist in developing a plan for reinstatement for individual properties.

**Anticipated Timing:**  
November 2009 to May 2010

## Detail about investigation work continued...

### Flora and fauna

Assessments being conducted by flora and fauna specialists include:

- botanists recording and assessing native trees, shrubs and grasses
- zoologists recording fauna species and habitat
- mapping areas containing significant amounts of flora and fauna.

### Anticipated Timing:

September 2009 to December 2009

All investigation work will stop for a period of time over Christmas and the New Year.



*Wax-lip Orchid*



*Potential alignment for pipeline*



*Significant tree*

## Project Information Desk contact details

A Project Information Desk has been established to provide information and respond to enquiries about this project.

This includes a free call number **1800 135 904** operating between 8am and 7pm weekdays and 8am and 12 noon on Saturdays.

We also have a dedicated project email address:

[castlemainelink@coliban.com.au](mailto:castlemainelink@coliban.com.au) that will be checked and responded to on weekdays.

To refer to the website for information go to [www.coliban.com.au/projects/castlemainelink](http://www.coliban.com.au/projects/castlemainelink)