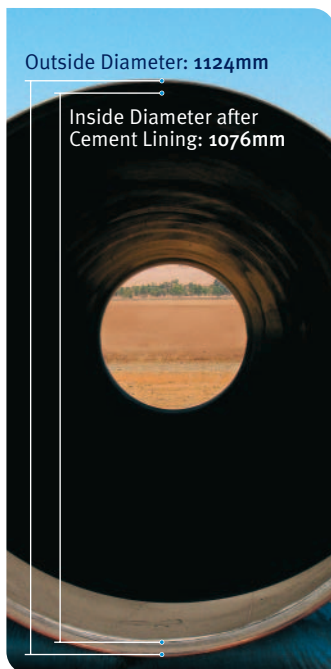


Newsletter 04
March 2007

Project Update

Construction Underway

- > *Project Information Days were held in Axedale and Colbinabbin in February.*
- > *The project construction office located at the pump station site north of Colbinabbin has been established.*
- > *Deliveries of pipe began on February 14 and will continue until late July.*
- > *Stripping of topsoil, in preparation for trench work, has begun south of the McIvor Highway and at a number of other locations along the pipeline alignment.*



- > **Outside Layer**
Polyethylene Protective Coating
- > **Middle Layer**
Steel Pipe (8mm thick)
- > **Inside Layer**
Cement Lining
(approx. 16mm thick)

Project Information Days

A total of 47 people attended the Project Information Days; 17 at Axedale and 30 at Colbinabbin. The construction contractor, FRH Group, also attended the information days to provide further information on construction whilst Powercor attended to answer questions on power upgrades. Common questions, concerns and answers are detailed below:

Construction

When will construction take place on my land?

Landowners will be notified in writing prior to work taking place on their land. Landowners are also being personally contacted by FRH Group's Community Liaison Officer, Eric Peters, to discuss details of construction and reinstatement.

What is the life expectancy of the pipe and what will happen at the end of this time?

The life of this pipe should be at approximately 100 years. Asset condition assessments would be carried out leading up to the expected life and monitoring or rehabilitation may be recommended. Decommissioning of a pipe such as this, if it were no longer required, would not involve pulling the pipe out. The pipe would most likely be backfilled.

Transportation and Road Closures

Will there be increased transport through Colbinabbin township?

Pipes are being sourced from Western Australia and it is expected that up to 40 truckloads will be delivered each week. The majority of pipes will not be delivered to Colbinabbin, but will be delivered directly to the various sites along the alignment in accordance with pipe delivery plans approved by VicRoads. However the establishment of the site office north of Colbinabbin township will create increased traffic around Colbinabbin. In response to requests from residents, attempts to minimise use of the main road will be made. Traffic will be directed to use the road north of the township where possible.

Will there be road closures?

Full road closures will be minimised. Road closures require approval from VicRoads or the local council and notification will be placed in local papers.

General questions and comments

What is the carrying capacity of the pipeline compared to water required?

The pipeline is capable of delivering up to 150ML per day; a proportion of that capacity will be used to supply water onwards to Ballarat. Negotiations between Coliban Water and Goulburn-Murray Water will govern the operation of the Bendigo section of the pipeline. It is expected that the full capacity will be used initially, depending on availability from the Goulburn System, to meet demand and improve water security. Daily urban usage for the Coliban System (Bendigo, Castlemaine, Kyneton and Heathcote) is variable. During late January and early February 2007, under Stage 4 water restrictions daily usage averaged between 25 and 30ML per day.

Will the pipeline impact on water levels in Lake Eppalock?

The pipeline will essentially have no benefit to water levels in Lake Eppalock. The volume of water is extremely small compared to the capacity of Lake Eppalock. The Superpipe is expected to transfer a maximum of 31,000ML combined for Bendigo and Ballarat per year and Lake Eppalock holds 304,651ML. It is also likely that water will often be transferred directly into the Eppalock to Bendigo pipeline and not into Lake Eppalock first, although the pipeline allows the flexibility to do either.

Water trading

What impact will the pipeline have on flows in the Waranga Western Channel?

The water being supplied to Coliban Water customers via the pipeline will only use approximately 3–4% of the total capacity of the Waranga Western Channel. The operating rules being developed between Goulburn Murray Water and Coliban Water will govern the operation of the pipeline.

Ongoing communication

What ongoing communication will there be?

Newsletter project updates will continue to be sent. Landowners will have direct contact with the construction contractor FRH Group prior to and during construction taking place on their land. The 1800 448 408 number will operate throughout construction.

Project Team members will attend the next Colbinabbin Citizens Advisory Group meeting on 26 February 2007.

An Open Day for the public to view construction is being planned and further information will be provided once a date is confirmed.

Compensation

Are landowners being compensated?

Yes, offers of compensation are being made to landowners impacted by the pipeline. Compensation is composed of three parts:

- › Land taken up by the easement and during construction
- › Allowance for landowner time
- › General inconvenience

Work on finalising compensation will continue progressively with landowners.

Power Upgrade

Will power upgrades associated with the project benefit residents?

Powercor is constructing a new powerline feeder to Colbinabbin. This will supply the Colbinabbin township and will improve power for residents in the town and the wider area. It will also provide additional power for growth in the area.

Removing the Colbinabbin township from an existing power feeder from Kyabram should also provide some small capacity benefits for customers remaining on this feeder.

It is expected that there will be minimal change in the reliability of supply to customers in the Axedale and Axe Creek area.

Powercor are updating residents in Colbinabbin interested in the power upgrade. For further information contact Powercor on 13 22 06.

Photos showing the commencement of construction including, topsoil stripping and lining up of pipes ready for laying.

