

Pipeline Alignment and Construction

Fact Sheet 2 – August 2016

The Lance Creek Water Connection will secure the water supply needs of Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora over the next 50 years.

The project connects these townships with South Gippsland Water's largest reservoir, Lance Creek, which is also connected to the Melbourne Water Supply System. The combination of these systems will secure water supply for the area and provide a dependable environment for community development, economic growth and future investment within the region.

The project has a total cost of some \$43 million and has been successful in acquiring state government funding of \$30 million.

Pipeline and pump positioning

The pipeline for the project includes two components, a pipeline from the Lance Creek Reservoir to the Korumburra Water Treatment Plant and a pipeline from Korumburra to the Poowong Water Treatment Plant.

South Gippsland Water is aiming to minimise any disruptions to land owners and where possible the proposed pipeline alignment has been planned to follow property boundaries and existing road easements as well as avoid significant areas of Flora and Fauna and/or Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites. The proposed pipeline alignment has also been planned along the most direct route which avoids high hills and steep slopes so as to minimise the construction and operating costs of the project.

Where the pipeline is laid through private property, South Gippsland Water will follow the requirements of the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. This Act sets out the legal process which South Gippsland Water must adhere to so as to ensure that land owners are appropriately compensated and not out of pocket for expenses associated with the construction process, rehabilitation of the land and creation of easements.

The pipeline will be below ground with a minimum of 800mm coverage. A number of infrastructure components such as isolation, air and scour valves will be above ground and potentially on private property. Where possible these will be designed to minimise impact on land owners.

Project timing

The project is scheduled to be completed over three years with construction planned to commence during 2017 and completion by 30th June 2019. Affected land owners will be contacted in person to discuss the construction process.

Through the *second half of 2016* the following steps will occur:

- Completion of the project planning including, access to affected properties for survey, design, valuation or testing processes.
- Commencement of the easement acquisition process for affected properties.

Land owner rights (including compensation)

Entry to Land

South Gippsland Water will liaise with land owners to keep you informed of project progress and to gain permission to enter your property. The Corporation will provide appropriate notice of entry; such access may be for survey, testing, inspection and valuation purposes.

Easement acquisition

It will be necessary to acquire an easement where the pipeline is located in private property. The easements will be four metres wide and are to be located to limit impact upon affected land owners.

An easement provides a legal right for South Gippsland Water to use the land in accordance with certain easement conditions, however, ownership of the land remains with the land owner. The easement will allow South Gippsland Water to access the pipeline for operational and maintenance reasons. Once in place, land owners are restricted from placing permanent structures over the easement.

South Gippsland Water will be undertaking a formal compulsory easement acquisition process for the Lance Creek Water Connection project as detailed in the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act, 1986*. The Corporation has chosen this acquisition process as it is a more structured process often used in large pipeline projects.

It is a process that provides certainty and clarity around the assessment and valuation of land for both the land owner and South Gippsland Water.

Compensation

In acquiring an easement over your property, South Gippsland Water must comply with the *Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986*. This includes an obligation to pay compensation for the creation of that easement. Such compensation is in addition to the obligation of South Gippsland Water to properly reinstate your property following any construction works.

Reinstatement

In undertaking construction works, South Gippsland Water is required to minimise the impact it causes to your property and then reinstate, as close as possible, to pre-construction condition. In such matters, South Gippsland Water will carry out works in co-operation with you.

Valuation

As part of the easement acquisition and compensation process, South Gippsland Water is required to engage an independent valuer to assess the impact of the easement on your property.

South Gippsland Water will at all times work with you to arrive at fair and reasonable compensation and will provide further information on this process as the project progresses.

Costs and expenses

Land owners can choose to seek independent legal and valuation advice and South Gippsland Water will pay legal, valuation and other professional expenses necessarily incurred as a result of the acquisition of the easement. However, if you choose this option, please be aware that in some circumstances, not all the expenses you incur will be reasonable. In these situations, you will therefore need to bear these expenses yourself.

Project impact generally

Although this project is for the greater benefit of the community, it will impact on particular properties in a direct and personal way. While such impact cannot be avoided, South Gippsland Water's objective throughout the project is to work as co-operatively as possible with owners located along the pipeline alignment.

South Gippsland Water must meet each and every one of its legal obligations in relation to property access, reinstatement and, as appropriate, compensation.

Assistance and further information

A range of community contact programs will be in place for the duration of the project, both to keep you informed of progress and to provide you with key contact points with the Corporation:

- Direct correspondence by South Gippsland Water with project-affected properties
- One-on-one contact via the project's liaison officer
- Information sessions
- Regular community update newsletters
- Interested persons register.

A project liaison officer has been assigned to assist the corporation work with local landholders to ensure the process is undertaken in a transparent and accountable manor with as little disruption as possible. Landowners will receive correspondence documenting the process in more detail.

Further information can be found on our website www.sgwater.com.au or call the customer service team on 03 5682 0444.

Keeping Up-To-Date

To find out more about the Lance Creek Water Connection and to receive regular updates, visit the Project page at www.sgwater.com.au. Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter @SthGippsWater.