

## Media Release

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### Connecting With Land Owners About Water Security

When it comes to securing water supply through a large-scale pipeline project, a great deal of planning and consultation needs to be done up-front.

The Lance Creek Water Connection will secure the water supply needs of Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora over the next 50 years. The project is a key component in South Gippsland Water's long-term strategy to secure water supplies for the region.

South Gippsland Water investigated a number of options for securing water supplies for these towns, including both surface water (expanding or building new reservoirs) and pipeline options. The resulting business case and formal stakeholder consultation confirmed that the Lance Creek Water Connection is the most viable and cost-effective option for water security for the area.

A pipeline will connect Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora with South Gippsland Water's largest reservoir, Lance Creek. This system will utilise an existing connection to the Melbourne Water Supply System, including the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant, for use as required.

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, in May this year, the State Government announced funding of \$30 million.

Key to the final stages of planning is meeting with the land owners whose properties fall into the alignment pathway of the pipeline. Last week project staff were pleased to meet with a number of landholders who took the opportunity to catch-up at open-house sessions in Kongwak, Poowong and Korumburra.

South Gippsland Water Managing Director Philippe du Plessis said, "Prior to the funding announcement, we had correspondence with land owners and property visits to conduct initial land, environmental and heritage survey work."

"With the project now progressing, talking to and hearing from those affected by the pipeline alignment of is vitally important. At the open-house sessions, staff gathered a lot of useful information from individual landholders and spent time answering questions and addressing concerns."

For more detailed, one-on-one discussions, project staff will be contacting and visiting each affected land owner over the coming weeks.

"Recent dry times and the implementation of staged water restrictions have highlighted the need for water security for local communities. South Gippsland Water is committed to working with land owners along the pipeline's course to ensure the delivery of the Lance Creek Water Connection causes as little disruption as possible."

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

