

Upper Goulburn Regional Water Supply Project



Date June 2007

Our Ref: JW/1803Z

Community Reference Committee

In May 2007 a Community Reference Committee (CRC) was established for the pipeline component of the Upper Goulburn Regional Water Supply Project. The main function of the CRC is to provide feedback and comments on alternate routes that have been identified for the water supply pipeline from Alexandra to Eildon and Thornton and provide feedback throughout the pipeline construction phase of the project.

Goulburn Valley Water will work with the CRC to understand and acknowledge the concerns and aspirations of the community and provide feedback to the CRC on how their input influenced the route selection and construction aspects of the project.

Background

Goulburn Valley Water currently operates three separate water supply systems at Eildon, Thornton and Alexandra and although they generally comply with the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, Eildon and Thornton have on occasion not complied with various requirements as the water is not filtered. We therefore plan to improve the quality of water in all three systems.

Numerous upgrade options were considered including:

- A regional water treatment plant located at either Alexandra, Thornton or Eildon with a pipeline linking all three towns;
- Separate water treatment plants at each location;
- Water treatment plants at Alexandra and Eildon, and supplying Thornton via a pipeline from either Alexandra or Eildon.

An analysis of the options recommended that a regional water treatment plant be located at Alexandra with a pipeline link to Eildon and Thornton .

A new \$3.6 million water treatment plant at Alexandra is currently under construction. This new water treatment plant has been designed to meet the future growth of Alexandra, Eildon and Thornton for the next 50 years.

A proposal was put to the Authority's Board to supply drinking water to Eildon and Thornton via a pipeline from Alexandra. This proposal was approved by the Board and was submitted to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Treasury and Finance for approval. These approvals have been received and our project engineers have commenced preliminary design for the water supply pipeline.

The Upper Goulburn Regional Water Supply Project involves a \$10 million investment for the provision of high quality drinking water to Alexandra, Eildon and Thornton. It will comprise of the new water treatment plant at Alexandra, a pump station and a pipeline from Alexandra to Thornton and Eildon.

This project will provide the upper Goulburn region with a secure high quality water supply for many decades.

Key Components of the Pipeline

- 25 km pipeline between Alexandra and Eildon and Thornton
- 5 km pipeline from Thornton to Rubicon Village
- 2.7 megalitre per day pump station at the Alexandra water treatment plant.

The pipeline will be connected into the existing clear water storage at Eildon and Rubicon Village and therefore there will be no changes to the existing reticulation system within the towns.

Goulburn Valley Water

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...running water from the Mountains to the Murray ...

Options for Pipeline Route

Our consultants looked at various alignments for the pipeline route and came up with the following seven options :

- Option 1 - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 2 - Webster Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 3 - Mt Pleasant Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 4 - Goulburn Valley Highway - Clarks Road - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 5 - Webster Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Clarks Road - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 6 - Mt Pleasant Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Clarks Road - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 7 - Gravity Main to Thornton (Option 1 Alignment)

Options were assessed based on the following criteria:

- Ease of construction
- Total capital cost
- Fauna and flora issues
- Net present value
- Traffic management
- Ease of operation

All options considered the alignment of the pipeline to Rubicon Village along the Taggerty-Thornton Road and Rubicon Road to the Rubicon Village storage tank.

From the options assessment process the following alignments scored well:

- Option 1 - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 2 - Webster Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment
- Option 3 - Mt Pleasant Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment

The advantages and disadvantages of above three options are outlined in the table below

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
OPTION 1 - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple operational requirement. • Avoids any potential environmental issues associated with the McKenzie Flora Reserve. • Presents the lowest risk from a construction and commissioning perspective. • Simple hydraulic design requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longest length of pipeline of all alignment options. • May need to obtain a pipeline easement for a section of pipeline (Approximately 1km) to avoid remnant vegetation.
OPTION 2 - Webster Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of construction particularly along Webster Road and Mt Pleasant Road. • Some traffic management issues will be avoided by using Webster Road and Mt Pleasant Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment may result in some hydraulic and operational issues associated with the undulating topographical profile. This alignment includes one high point, within the McKenzie Flora Reserve. • Operational issues. • Commissioning issues. • McKenzie Flora Reserve environmental and planning issues.
OPTION 3 - Mt Pleasant Road - Goulburn Valley Highway - Eildon Back Road Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of construction particularly along Mt Pleasant Road. • Some traffic management issues will be avoided by using Mt Pleasant Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment may result in some hydraulic and operational issues associated with the undulating topographical profile. This alignment includes one high point, within the McKenzie Flora Reserve. • Commissioning issues. • McKenzie Flora Reserve environmental and planning issues.

The preferred alignment is Option 1 as it provides the best hydraulic solution which results in a simply operated water supply system and averts potential hydraulic issues. This alignment avoids high pumping pressures required for the hilly passes along Clarks

Road (Options 4,5 & 6) and Mt Pleasant Road (Option 2) and also avoids potential environmental issues evident in options 2 & 3 (McKenzie Floral Reserve) at Mount Pleasant Road.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is an upgrade required for Alexandra, Eildon and Thornton Drinking Water Supply?

The current water supply system at Alexandra, Eildon and Thornton cannot guarantee that the quality of the drinking water will meet the standards set by the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*. There is the potential for Boil Water notices to be issued in all three towns. An upgrade to the drinking water supply will ensure that the water quality complies with the Act.

Why is the water supply for Eildon and Thornton sourced from Alexandra?

Alexandra, as the largest of the three towns, has a significantly higher demand and it was determined that sourcing the regions water supply via the water treatment plant at Alexandra was the most economical solution.

If we are currently not serviced by Goulburn Valley Water and our property is along the pipeline route, are we able to receive a drinking water service?

As part of the preliminary design process, an investigation will be undertaken to determine the benefits and viability of supplying a service to on-route customers. The options that will be investigated will be supply of drinking water, supply of non-potable water, and not permitting supply.

How will our water service change once we are receiving water from Alexandra?

The only change to your water service will be improved water quality that complies with the *Safe Water Drinking Act 2003*.

Does Goulburn Valley Water operate other regional water supply systems?

Yes. Goulburn Valley Water operates a number of regional water treatment plant across the region.

Merrigum is supplied from the Kyabram water treatment plant. Strathmerton is supplied by the Cobram water treatment plant. Violet Town is supplied by the Euroa water treatment plant. Tallarook is supplied from the Seymour water treatment plant.; Kilmore, Wandong and Heathcote Junction are supplied from a remote water treatment plant in the Mt Disappointment region; Toolamba, Tallygaroopna, Mooroopna and Congupna are all supplied from the Shepparton water treatment plant.

All these systems have operated for many years very successfully.

Community Engagement

Community engagement that has already been undertaken includes:

- Articles in the GVW News— the Authority's customer newsletter.
- Articles in the Alexandra Standard
- A workshop in Thornton & Eildon with key community members
- Community Open Day at Thornton & Eildon
- Display for a week at the Eildon Visitor Centre
- Display for a week at the Murrindindi Shire offices at Alexandra
- A Community Reference Committee established in May 2007.
- Discussions with Councillors and officers of the Shire of Murrindindi

Planning Process

The current program envisaged by the Authority is:

Survey of the pipeline alignment is due to commence within the next couple of months.

Completion of the pipeline design	Early 2008
Competitive Tendering process (After completion of Design)	Early 2008
Commencement of Construction	July 2008
Completion and Commissioning of the pipeline	June 2009

Public Comment

Goulburn Valley Water invites landowners and residents of the upper Goulburn region to provide comment on the proposed pipeline alignment. Comments can be made in writing by Friday 6 July 2007 to;

Upper Goulburn Region Water Supply Pipeline
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Or E-mail mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au

For further information please contact
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