



Mitiamo and district domestic and stock pipeline newsletter

Community feedback shapes business case

One-on-one consultation with Mitiamo landowners has ended with strong in-principle support for a domestic and stock pipeline in the district.

A three-person team from Curo Project Management spent much of February and March meeting landowners on their properties. From 183 consultations, they received warm welcomes and informative feedback to help Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) develop a strong, viable and well-supported business case for a pipeline.

Curo Project Officer Gavin Mould said things didn't exactly get off to a running start for himself and consultants Sandy Schroen and John Guilmartin.

On their very first farm consultation visit, Sandy was left literally hopping when the family dog stole her shoe off the front porch.

"Of course we all know to take our shoes off when visiting someone's house, but after finally finding the shoe near the farm dam we learned to leave them inside the door," Gavin said.

The conversations demonstrated keen community interest in helping the district achieve a reliable, reticulated domestic and stock water supply. Some

consultations took several hours as landowners took the team on a tour of their farming operations – all the while asking questions and providing important feedback on a future pipeline.

As the business case takes shape, landowners expressed interest in being kept up to date about how a pipeline service would operate, the alignment of infrastructure, water access and rules rules of access and, of course, the cost.

Further clarity on all these points will be provided on 26 April 2017, when the next community Open Day is scheduled at the Mitiamo Football Club. In the meantime, this newsletter seeks to update the community and address frequently asked questions from the consultation.

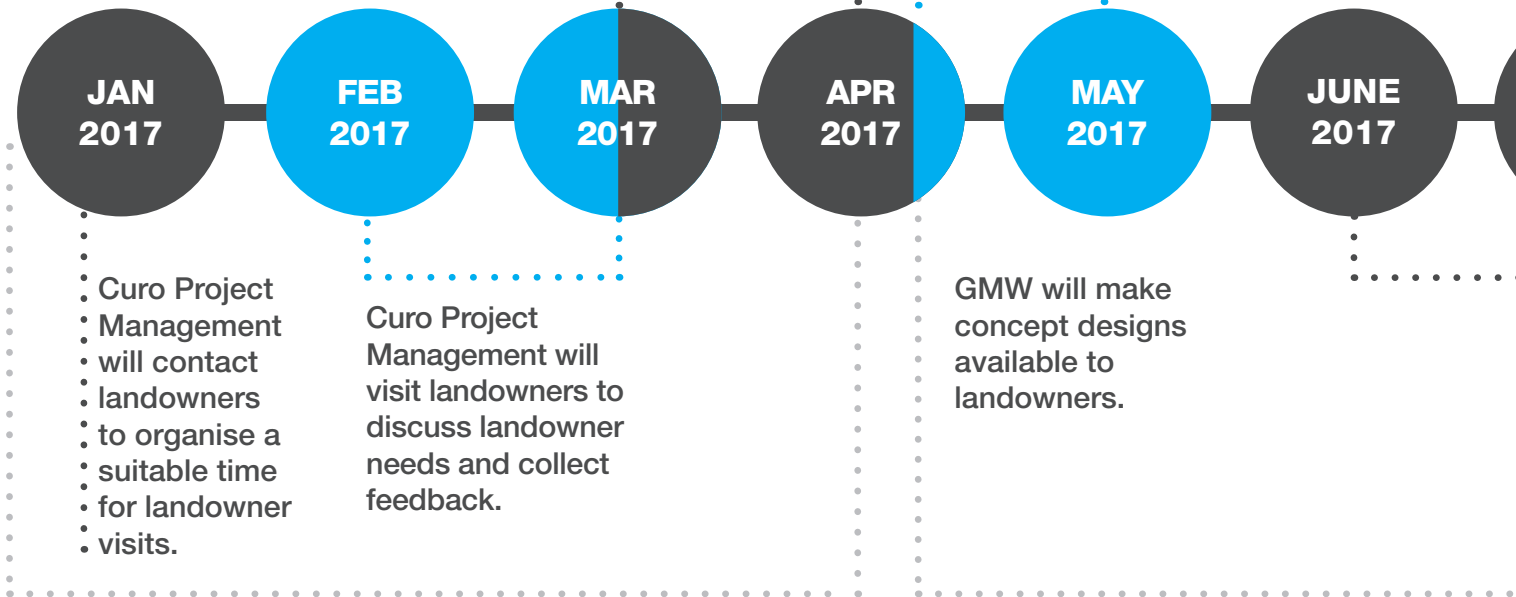
Now that we have consulted you, we are ready to progress with the pipeline design. This requires the proposed pipe alignment to be surveyed and is standard practice for this stage of design as discussed with Curo. The surveyors will call you or leave a message to notify you that they will be in the area. We appreciate your co-operation in accommodating them on your property.

Timeline

● Landowner consultation

GMW will develop first concept designs.

Initial concept design consultation period.



Phase Two

Questions from our consultation

Here are some of the more frequently asked questions during property visits undertaken by GMW's consultants, Curo Project Management. More detailed questions and answers have been developed into a fact sheet available at www.gmwater.com.au/mitiamo

We will continue to update these as we continue the project.

I want more information on the cost and business rules that will apply before committing to the pipeline.

The issue of connection and ongoing cost is understandably important to potential customers of a pipeline servicing the Mitiamo district.

GMW will put forward our concept designs at the Open Day planned for Wednesday 26 April at Mitiamo Football Club. This will give an indication of costs and business rules as we further proceed toward a preferred design for the business case.

Can GMW provide clarity on business rules for unserved properties, dam fill schemes and those in existing water syndicates?

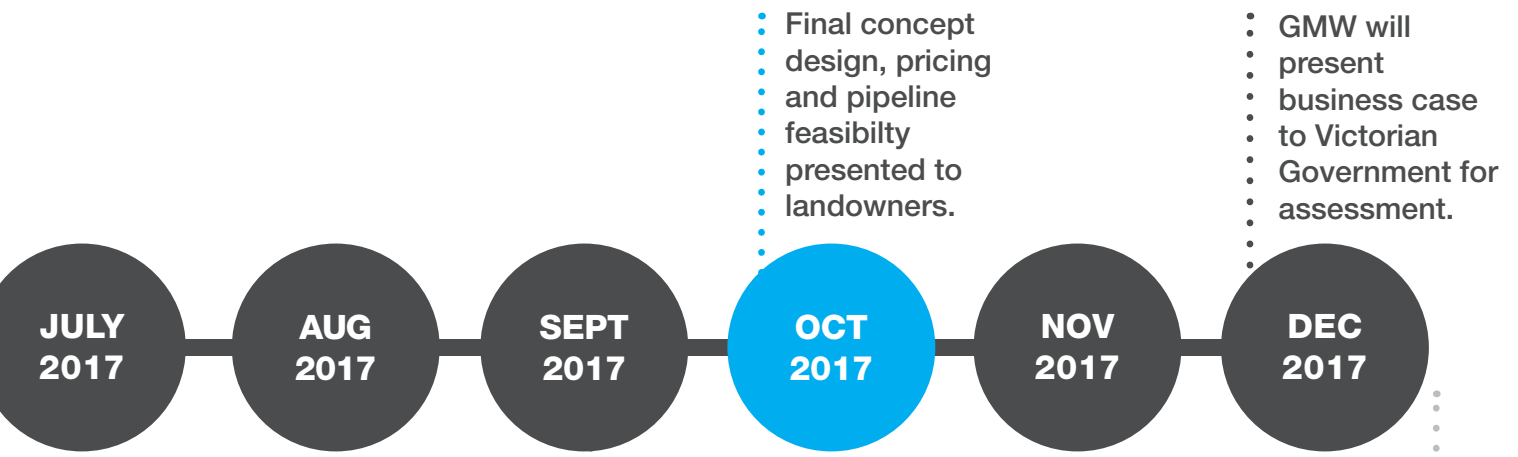
Customers who are currently serviced by the GMW operated dam fill schemes will be provided with a service as part of the new pipeline.

GMW intends to meet with each existing private syndicate to discuss their specific water requirements and access to the pipeline.

For the currently unserved properties they may have an initial capital cost to be connected to any future pipeline.

Will there be any compensation for customers who used the dam fill scheme?

No. While appreciating the annual dam fill scheme has long fulfilled an important need for participating landowners, it would become redundant if the new pipeline is constructed.



GMW will modify concept design based on landowner feedback to develop a single, preferred concept design.

Phase Three

Could the pipe run along a property's south boundary rather than the north boundary, for example?

GMW will consider, consult and review any landowner's request for the pipeline's proposed location to be altered.

If there are negligible costs involved in relocating a section of the pipeline, it will be favourably considered. However GMW, in the interests of all stakeholders and building a viable business case, is committed to keeping costs down wherever possible.

Can there be blank tapping points included for future use?

We appreciate some landowners may want one or more "blank" tapping points to the pipeline along different sections of their property. This would allow access to water from that connection point in the future.

Water supply arrangements, including the required water to service these points, would require further discussions with GMW.

GMW will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis.

If the pipeline were to be built, there would be an upfront infrastructure and labour cost to the landowner for installing blank tapping points. The cost has yet to be determined.

Can landowners connect in the future?

Yes, although this would be subject to available capacity. Water supply arrangements including required water to service customer needs would have to be resolved with GMW.

However for the same reason as previously noted, it will be more expensive to install the infrastructure to connect to the pipeline once it is complete and in the ground.

Water supply arrangements, including the required water to service these points, would require further discussions with GMW.

If the business case for a Mitiamo district domestic and stock pipeline is successful, the cheapest connection cost will be at the commencement of the project's construction.

Project Reference Committee

Our reference committee represents all stakeholders in the project and includes six community representatives.

The committee's role is to ensure that local knowledge is taken into account, and community expectations are met, during the process of developing a business case for a domestic and stock pipeline serving the Mitiamo district.

The committee consists of:

- Community members Neil Allen, Geoff Thomas, Jonathan Leech, Peter Touhey, Jenny Emonson and Ron Mitchell
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)
- Regional Development Victoria
- Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)
- Coliban Water
- Loddon Shire Council
- Campaspe Shire Council



How can I have input?

If you would like to discuss the development of the business case for a domestic and stock pipeline in the Mitiamo district with a community representative, you can contact them by phone:

Neil Allen	0428 590 285
Jenny Emonson	0407 595 603
Jonathan Leech	0429 450 590
Ron Mitchell	0428 100 711
Geoff Thomas	0429 182 959
Peter Tuohey	0428 952 425

Your community representative will present any questions or concerns you may have at the next Project Reference Committee meeting.

You can also put your ideas, concerns or questions to GMW's Project Manager Jamie Cowan, on 1800 013 357. For general information about the business case for a domestic and stock pipeline in the Mitiamo district, visit www.gmwater.com.au/mitiamo

If you wish to opt out of receiving updates about the development of the business case for a domestic and stock pipeline in the Mitiamo district, please contact Mr Cowan.

Our next Open Day

Remember our next Open Day is from 10am to 7pm at the Mitiamo Football Club on Wednesday 26 April 2017.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive an update on the project, view concept design plans and have your say – in person - with project managers and community representatives.

More information

For more information about the development of the business case for a domestic and stock pipeline in the Mitiamo district:



Phone our Project Manager, Jamie Cowan, on **1800 013 357**



Visit our website **www.gmwater.com.au/mitiamo**



Drop into our Customer Service Centre
24 Barber Street, Pyramid Hill
between 9.30am to 2pm Monday to Friday.



Email **info@gmwater.com.au**



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

www.gmwater.com.au | 1800 013 357