

# PROJECT UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2020

The \$29 million investment in the Mitiamo and surrounding community is underway with the Mitiamo Pipeline Project receiving funding from the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government and Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW).

As it stands, over 80% of water supplied to the channels in the region is lost before use, and only two-thirds of the project area is currently serviced.

The Mitiamo Pipeline is one of a number of GMW initiatives will boost productive agriculture and opportunity for investment in the region, among other benefits.

The Mitiamo project team have been busy working with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) and private landowners to ensure we have the appropriate plans and agreements in place to deliver the project and its benefits.



Jason Kerr of Dja Dja Wurrung explaining the traditional uses of marker trees to Justin Shiner

Cultural Heritage Management plans have been developed via field assessment and engagement with Traditional Owner groups including Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Traditional Owners of the Pyramid Hill and Terrick Terrick regions.

The planning process will also benefit from the assistance of Aboriginal Victoria.

The team have contacted the 170 private landowners along the project alignment to discuss the project and each landowners' particular circumstances. The team are working to issue more than 10 tailored landowner agreements each week until all 170 agreements are in place.

## Landowner Agreements



Cultural Heritage Plans Agreed



Pump Station Construction



360km Pipeline Construction









#### CONSTRUCTION STARTS AT THE TOP

In readiness to construct the 360km of pipeline required for this project, the Mitiamo Pipeline Project Team are excited to see work start on the construction of a pump station and lagoon at the top of the system.

Max Bright and Sons with their team of mechanical, electrical and construction specialists are staying locally in Rochester while they deliver this first important construction milestone for the project.



MPP Pump Station and Lagoon in Rochester

The pump station will be the powerhouse that ensures the system is able to reliably deliver supply through the entirety of the 360km pipeline network 365 days of the year, including during peak summer demand.

Also underway at the pump station site is a lagoon which will store up to 85ML of water. This will ensure year round customer supply including winter and maintenance periods.



#### **ASK SANDY**

Sandy Schroen from the Mitiamo Project team has been visiting landowners along the project alignment. In doing the rounds within the community, Sandy has come across some great questions, some of which are answered here:

How will the pipeline construction affect my farming practices?

The proposed pipeline will have a minimum cover on farm of 600mm, so once constructed cropping and grazing can continue. During construction the project team will be in contact with you prior to coming onto your property, to identify any obstructions and minimise any disruption to your current enterprise ie cropping, stock movement etc.

When will first water be?

It is anticipated that most dam filling schemes will have their final run early next year and construction of the pipeline will be completed in April next year, so looking at the "first water" being available in April 2021.

Will I be notified as the construction team comes through?

Certainly. In addition to monthly project updates detailing progress and next steps, landowners will be notified directly 5-7 days in advance of any work at or in the vicinity of their properties.

Do I have to be part of the project?

The project will be replacing the current private and GMW dam filling schemes. There is no compulsion to be on the pipeline. If landowners have access to an alternative water supply they may choose to connect to this supply instead of going on the Mitiamo Pipeline.

#### PROJECT TIMELINE

COMMENCE ENGAGEMENT with Registered Aboriginal Parties and private landowners

AWARD CONTRACT for construction of pump station

PREPARE & AGREE
Cultural Heritage Plans and
Landowner Agreements

WE

**ARE** 

**HERE** 

COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION of pump station

PROCUREMENT of pipeline materials

AWARD CONTRACT for construction of 360km pipeline

LANDOWNER NOTIFICATIONS prior to onsite activity

COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF 360KM PIPELINE

LAST DAMS FILLED by G-M Water

PROJECT COMPLETION (est April 2021)

FIRST WATER TARRIFFS (est 1 July 2021)

# FIND OUT MORE Landowners Enquiries

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### **General Enquiries**

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