

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is the Mitiamo Pipeline being built?

A. Historically, 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.

Water is currently delivered to some properties in this region through open channel and dam storage networks. This system is characterised by poor service capability and large losses of water through seepage and evaporation.

It is expected a more reliable service and a cleaner water supply will result in increased productivity of the land, improved community resilience and liveability, improved high value use of water as well as improve the terrestrial biodiversity of Terrick Terrick National Park.

Q. What is the tariff structure and price point?

A. As a non-profit authority, GMW's pricing is structured to recover the costs of the services provided and to maintain its assets.

Pricing for the Mitiamo Pipeline (a reticulated domestic and stock pipeline) has been calculated, including the size of the pipe, how many customers it will service, and the costs required by GMW to maintain and operate the pipe into the future

The pricing submission for the Mitiamo Pipeline was lodged with the ESC in November 2019, including the proposed fees and charges for the period 2020-2024. The 2020/21 pricing for the pipeline is provided below.

The Mitiamo Project Team can work with you to understand the specific details of your property size and service requirements to provide an indication of your likely GMW bill.

An MPP Fact Sheet about Pricing and Tariffs can be found on the project webpage at:

www.g-mwater.com.au/about/community/mitiamo-pipeline

Fee	Unit	2020/21 Pricing	What the Fee Includes	How it Works
Service Fee	\$ per account	\$119.00	This fee recovers the administrative cost of maintaining customer records, managing accounts and billing	This fee is calculated on a per property basis
Service Point Fee	\$ per service point	\$144.00	This fee recovers the cost of operating and maintaining domestic and stock service points	Payable for each service point provided to a property
Infrastructure Access Fee	\$ per kilolitres per day	\$158.78	This fee recovers the fixed and capital costs of operating the pipeline	This is calculated by the tariff multiplied by the number of kilolitres per day of distribution capacity share
Infrastructure Use Fee	\$ per megalitre	\$25.86	This fee recovers a portion of the costs of operating and maintaining the pipeline network, such as pumping costs	This is calculated by the tariff multiplied by the number of megalitres delivered. This is a variable cost and is determined based on how much water used
Water Allowance Storage	\$ per megalitre	\$8.67	This fee recovers the cost of storing the water allowance in GMW's bulk water storage sites	This is calculated by the tariff multiplied by the number of megalitres of water allowance available to the property



Q. When will the Mitiamo Pipeline be constructed?

A. The 360km Mitiamo Pipeline is expected to be built and supplying water by mid 2021.

Q. Who is completing the works?

A. Goulburn-Murray Water is managing the Mitiamo Pipeline Project, and the construction works will undergo the standard tender and procurement process. Once a contractor for the works has appointed, this will be announced and a copy of the announcement made available on the project webpage.

Q. How is the project being funded?

A. It is estimated construction costs would be about \$29 million, incorporating 360 kilometres of pipeline, a pump station and 85 ML storage.

Of the total construction cost, State and Commonwealth Governments have invested \$24.7 million with the remaining \$4.3 million and ongoing costs to be met by landholders.

Commonwealth Funding for the Project has been obtained through the \$1.3 billion National Water Infrastructure Development Fund which is implementing the Australian Government's commitment to build the water infrastructure of the 21st century. The fund is accelerating the detailed planning and construction of water infrastructure projects that will deliver new and affordable water, enhance water security and underpin regional economic growth, including irrigated agriculture and industry.

Of the \$24.7 million in government funding, the Victorian Government invested \$10.2 million in funding, and the Australian Government invested \$14.5 million in funding from the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

Why has the Government funded the Mitiamo Pipeline Project?

A. The benefits of the project are aligned with a number of Victorian Government policies and initiatives including the National Water Initiative, Water for Victoria and the Food & Fibre Strategy.

The Mitiamo Pipeline also supports the delivery of projects outlined in Victoria's Northern Water Infrastructure Prospectus released in 2018.

For more information is available at

https://www.water.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/395830/Victorias-Northern-Water-Infrastructure-Prospectus-Continuing-to-deliver-the-Basin-Plan.pdf

Q. What summer supply will I need before the pipeline is complete?

A. While the Pump Station and Lagoon work is already underway, the 360km Mitiamo Pipeline is expected to start construction by the end of 2020 and be supplying water by mid 2021.

Landowners will need to maintain their regular supply arrangements until the pipeline is complete by the end of June 2021.

Q. What will my outlet size and flow rate be?

A. There are two outlets sizes that have been determined based on property size and number of occupied dwellings. The specific size of the outlet and flow rate proposed to service your property can be advised by a member of the Mitiamo Project Team.



Q. What storage capacity will I need on-farm once the pipeline is complete?

A. The capacity requirements on farm are subject to the individual property type. It is recommended that the private tanks be suitable for 4 days of storage to allow for periods of peak demand. Agriculture Victoria will be available to assist in understanding on farm watering requirements.

An MPP Fact Sheet about Connectivity and Storage can be found on the project webpage at www.g-mwater.com.au/about/community/mitiamo-pipeline

Q. Who will be funding and organising the on-farm storage and infrastructure?

A. It is up to you, the landowner, to organise and fund any on-farm infrastructure and internal pipework from the metering point to tank. Any infrastructure downstream of the GMW-owned meter will be privately owned and operated.

Q. Are there any funding programs for the on-farm works?

A. The Mitiamo Pipeline funding is solely for the main pipeline tranches. There are no funding schemes specifically available for the Mitiamo Projects on farm works.

Q. Will my crop be damaged?

A. After consultation with farming entities along the pipeline alignment, the Mitiamo Pipeline project team and its contractors have scheduled the majority of construction of the pipeline for out-of-season / post-harvest months. The team will take every measure to ensure our construction impact is minimised to the extent possible. The project team will be in contact prior to constructing so that the location and the work is understood before commencing.

Q. What will my water allocation be / Can I get more water?

A. The allocated daily and annual demands for House use within the Mitiamo Piped Water District are 7,000 Litres per day or 1.73 megalitres per year.

Water Allocation will be determined based on property size and type. The Mitiamo project team will consult with you about your individual requirements.

Upon commissioning and operation of the pipeline, customers can apply to GMW to have their water share adjusted.

An MPP Fact Sheet about Demand Allocations can be found on the project webpage at www.g-mwater.com.au/about/community/mitiamo-pipeline

Q. What can we do with our land over the top of where the pipeline has been laid?

A. The newly installed Mitiamo Pipeline will traverse both private and public land however the design nominates the alignments to be on property boundaries wherever possible.

The pipe will be laid at a minimum 600mm depth. It is anticipated there will be no reason to change current practices over areas of the pipeline.

Q. Can I change the location of my tapping point?

A. You will have the opportunity to change the location of the tapping point during our engagement with you, however the extent to which the location can change depends on the pipeline alignment.

Q. Will you be decommissioning the existing dam scheme infrastructure?

A. No, it is not part of the Mitiamo Pipeline Project's scope to decommission the infrastructure that will no longer be required once the pipeline is operational.

Q. Do I have to be a part of the project?

A. No, you do not need to be part of the project however, if you are part of the dam filling schemes, or other GMW infrastructure that will be retired once the pipeline is operational, it is recommended you be part of the Mitiamo Pipeline Project to ensure there is no interruption to your supply.

Q. What if I decide I want to be part of the Project once it has been built?

A. It is important to understand that the users of the Mitiamo pipeline are contributing to the cost of the works. If you decide at a later date you wish to be part of the pipeline, there may be additional costs you incur in doing so and would be subject to available capacity in the system.

Q. Will I be supplied for 365 days a year?

A. Yes, the pipeline and associated pumping arrangements and storage facility have been designed to provide a year-round supply of stock and domestic water.

Q. We aren't on the current plan to be connected. How do we get involved?

A. If you are not currently on the Mitiamo Pipeline and want to be connected, we recommend getting in touch with the Mitiamo Project Team as soon as possible to discuss your options. The Mitiamo Project Team can be contacted on email MitiamoPipeline@gmwater.com.au. The Mitiamo Project Team will assess what options are available to connect your property however, please understand it may not be possible to accommodate all requests.

Q. Will there be an impact on the township water supply as part of this Project?

A. The Mitiamo Townships supply is provided by Coliban Water, which will become part of Mitiamo pipeline supply. The supply to Coliban Water will not directly impact the private residents supplied.

Q. What will water quality be like once the pipeline is complete?

A. The Mitiamo Pipeline will be supplying raw water (which is non-potable), from the Waranga Western Channel. Water Supplied by GMW is not suitable for drinking without first being properly treated.

More information about water quality and treatment can be found on the GMW website at www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/water-quality