

Cosgrove Pipeline Project

Newsletter, October 2014



Welcome to the latest newsletter for the Cosgrove Pipeline Project.

In this newsletter we provide:

- An update from Cosgrove Community Advisory Group Chair Colin Jeffery;
- News of the appointment of the contractor for the project;
- A short timeline of the Gowangardie Weir area



Construction work commenced in September. It will include upgrading the pump set with higher capacity pumps and early construction and installation of the pipeline.

The pipeline is on track to be commissioned December 2014. It will provide year round supply to at least 112 properties.

Chair's report

An inspection of the Tungamah Pipeline was undertaken by a number of interested Cosgrove and Pine Lodge landholders. Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) Tungamah Pipeline Operator Wayne Budde explained how the system functions. Those in attendance found the information given beneficial in assisting their forward planning. Thanks to the Tungamah Chairman Rod Squires for helping organise the day.

Pipe laying contractors hope to make a start late-September. Contractors will require 12m from fence lines to operate machinery etc. Silage may be an option where crop is sown. Information regarding the location of pipelines pertaining to their individual properties may be obtained by phoning John Davison on 0407 059 230.

It would be in the landholders' best interest to complete their new farm water systems during the coming months. Pipes and tanks need to be ready and on farm in preparation for the completion of the pipeline.

Due to the closure of the open channel system, enquiries are taking place to secure a site for a large CFA tank to be serviced by the pipeline. This will be beneficial for the Cosgrove-Pine Lodge, Caniambo and Currawa fire brigades.

With program planning well underway we look forward with enthusiasm to the beginning of the pipeline construction.

(Below) Cosgrove landowners and Goulburn-Murray Water staff members at the launch of the Cosgrove pipeline construction launch, October 2, 2014.



L-R. Ian McPhee, Annabel Harwood, Richard Bennett, John Davison (GMW Cosgrove Project Manager), Ross Harmer, Colin Jeffery (Chair of Cosgrove Advisory Group), Noel O'Sullivan, Gavin Hanlon (GMW Managing Director).

New contractor appointed

GMW has awarded a contract to Darling Irrigation for the detailed design and construction of the pipeline component of the project.

Darling Irrigation has completed thousands of kilometers of rural pipeline systems including the 250km Trangie Nevertire Domestic and Stock Pipeline, 68km Marthaguy Domestic and Stock Pipeline and several 100km and longer bore and Domestic and Stock schemes.

We have also appointed TransCom Connect to oversee delivery of the Cosgrove Stock and Domestic Pipeline Project, including supervision of Darling Irrigation and management of the Tungamah Pump Station upgrade works. TransCom is a joint venture between Transfield Services and Comdain Infrastructure who are currently engaged as GMW's main contractor for the Connections Project.

For information about general project matters phone TransCom Project Manager Danny Muldeary on 5820 4531 or 0409 010 662.

For information about pipeline construction matters phone Darling Irrigation Project Manager Don Sudholz on 0428 458 512.

History of the Gowangardie Weir

The history of the distribution of stock and domestic water in this area dates back 116 years. Here is a summary of the significant events which have been related to the construction of the Gowangardie Weir.

1881

A Water Conservancy Board was appointed to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the water supply of the Broken River area for the purpose of supplying water to the northern plains for Stock and Domestic use. The Board recommended the construction of weirs and headworks at the Broken Creek and the Pine Lodge Creek and a suitable network of distribution channels; and although water storages were not considered necessary, it was noted that Winton (or Mokoan) Swamp might be suitable.

1882

The Shepparton Waterworks Trust was constituted in October 1882. Its main works to be a weir on the Broken River at Currewa and on the Broken Creek at Barwo and for channels to be developed on Congupna Creek, works for the supply of water to the township of Shepparton, plus other channels and tanks to be developed in the area. The Trust wished to raise the level of the Pine Lodge Creek to supply water for stock and domestic use in the Shepparton, Numurkah and Tungamah districts.

1884

Pine Lodge Weir was completed in April 1884 on a site selected by a number of the Water Conservancy Board, M.G. Gordon, who was a former Chief Engineer of Water Supply. This site was opposed by the Shepparton Shire Waterworks Trust as being unstable.

1885

The weir was repaired and its bank extended. Floods again washed the bank away and the weir was inspected by the Royal Commission on Water Supply.



Image downloaded from State Library of Victoria www.slv.vic.gov.au



Construction of the Gowangardie Weir. circa 1897 from "Shepparton Shire Reflections".

1886

The Commission's file indicated financial problems associated with the weir were unable to be resolved.

The weir was constructed at a cost of 3,000 pounds sterling and repaired at a cost of an extra 1,000 pounds.

1887

The Shepparton Urban Waterworks Trust was constituted in December 1887 (as distinct from the shire Waterworks Trust).

A select committee of the Legislative Assembly was appointed to examine the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the weir. They found that –

"The Pine Lodge Weir was constructed at a site opposed to the wishes of the Shepparton Waterworks Trust and their engineer who had selected another site known as the Woolshed and that in consequence of no provision having been made for the protection of the southern bank (which was composed of silted up sand), the bank was washed away by the first flood as was predicted by the Trust and consequently rendered useless."

They then recommended that the weir be repaired at the Government's expense. This, the Government was unwilling to do, and the Trust refused to strike a rate to meet the cost of the weir's construction.

1892

The Shepparton Waterworks Trust was divided into two Trusts, the dividing line being the boundary between the Shires of Shepparton and Numurkah. These two new Trusts were the Shire

of Shepparton Waterworks Trust and the Shire of Numurkah Waterworks Trust.

1893

The Trust's district was estimated at approximately 90,000 acres (144 square miles). This was reduced by excisions to 25,500 acres by 1965.

1896

The Government finally acted on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Water Supply to write off the outstanding debt of the Pine Lodge works and authorised a fresh approach approving the Trust's site for a new weir at Gowangardie.

As an interim measure while awaiting the construction of the replacement weir, the Trust installed 2 pumps which the Pine Lodge channels and creeks could be supplied with water over the summer. The pumps were capable of delivering over 12,000 gallons of water per minute into the Pine Lodge channel.



Image downloaded from State Library of Victoria
www.slv.vic.gov.au

1897

The Gowangardie Weir was completed for the Shire of Shepparton Waterworks Trust on the 16th June 1897 on a site about two miles upstream of the old Pine Lodge Weir. The Trust had a granite tablet fixed to the weir bearing the names of all the Commissioners, the Secretary and three Engineers, and also the Clerk of Works and the Contractors.

1940s and 1950s

Some maintenance work was carried out, but no major work was done in recent years.

1976

As the Shire of Shepparton had become so committed in operating the Trust, the Trust Commissioners at a meeting in November 1976 resolved that the whole scheme be dissolved and placed under the control of the Shire Council to administer under the Local Government Act 1958. The Orders in council formerly dissolved the Trust as from the 1st January 1978, transferring its works to the Shire of Shepparton Council.

The former Waterworks Trust Commissioners continued to act on behalf of the community in an advisory capacity to the Shepparton Shire Council.

1978

"The dissolution of the Shire of Shepparton Waterworks Trust on the 1st January, 1978 marked the end of an authority which, although small, made a significant contribution to local history."

1994

The Victorian Government carried out its policy for the amalgamation of Councils and the Shire of Shepparton was absorbed into the City of Greater Shepparton. With the amalgamation of Councils, the future administration and distribution of stick and domestic water became uncertain.

On the 8th November, 1994, Mr. Don Kilgour, M.P. revealed in Parliament the concern of the community on this matter. As a result, a meeting was held on the site of Gowangardie Weir with the Minister for Natural Resources, the Hon. Geoff Coleman, M.P., M.L.A., and representatives from Goulburn-Murray Water, the Stock and Domestic Advisory committee, City of Greater Shepparton, Mr. Don Kilgour, M.P., and Mr. Jeremy Gayland (Chief Commissioner of the Shire of Moira).

1995

Legislation was passed in the Victorian Parliament in June 1995 enabling the establishment of a Community Water Supply Scheme.

1996

Local Government responsibility for the operation of the Stock and Domestic Water Supply ceased on 30th June, 1996. The Shepparton Stock and Domestic Water Supply Agreement was drawn up by Dawes and Vary (Kyabram), funded by Goulburn-Murray Water and presented to a public meeting of water users on the 7th March, 1996.

1997

Another public meeting was held on the 16th April 1997 when a Committee of six members were elected to administer the Shepparton Stock and Domestic Community Water Supply Scheme. This body later became incorporated.

Elected Committee Members

Ewan Harmer, Rod Harmer, Ken Sim, John O'Keefe, Colin Jeffery, Tom Cochran

The community now has the responsibility of maintaining some 90 kilometers of channels and 294 dams. With continued community support, the Committee believes the future of the stock and domestic system is assured.

Tom Cochran Chairman

Shepparton Stock and Domestic
Community Water Supply Scheme,
23/11/97

Acknowledgements:

References and Quotes taken from the book, "Shepparton Shire Reflections, 1879-1979"

Written by Sue Wallace



Communication activities and next steps

Cosgrove customers will be informed of any further developments as they happen. The project is moving at a rapid pace with the appointment of a contractor for design and construction of the pipeline and work commencing from September.

The Project Manager is available to discuss individual property concerns. For more information contact:

John Davison, GMW Project Manager

Phone: 0407 059 230

Email: John.Davison@gmwater.com.au

www.gmwconnectionsproject.com.au