

## Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer

### Community update – 2 October 2009

This update is to provide information on the most recent developments of the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer.

The Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer involves transferring water from the Murrumbidgee River through an underground pipeline to Burra Creek in NSW, which flows into Googong Reservoir. It is one component of Water Security – Major Projects, a suite of water security infrastructure initiatives now being implemented by ACTEW Corporation to secure the region's water supply.

### What's been happening lately?

ACTEW would like to thank residents of the ACT and NSW for their attendance at the five recent community drop-in sessions. These information sessions were held as part of the formal public exhibition phase of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ACT) and Environmental Assessment (NSW) (EIS/EA).

The public exhibition period closed on 18 September 2009 in both the ACT and NSW. In addition, the NSW Department of Planning announced that it would accept late submissions on the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Environmental Assessment until close of business on Friday 2 October 2009.

ACTEW has already begun preparing responses to the submissions received. We are aiming to finalise and resubmit the EIS/EA before the end of the year.

### What issues were raised by the community during public exhibition?

The public information sessions and submissions raised a number of issues for ACTEW to address.

One issue which was raised by the community was the location, noise emission and operation of air and scour valves that are located at the high and low points of the pipeline.

ACTEW is preparing a fact sheet on these valves for distribution in the near future. We believe the additional information provided will alleviate many of the concerns raised.

### Water Security – Major Projects

Information line: 6248 3563  
watersecurity@actew.com.au  
www.actew.com.au/watersecurity

### What is happening next?

As the directly affected landowners are aware, negotiations about construction access and easement acquisition for some local Williamsdale and Burra properties have been underway for some time. ACTEW requires a temporary 40 metre width for construction, and a permanent 15 metre wide operational easement following completion of the project (approximately 18 months from commencement of construction).

ACTEW is committed to achieving voluntary land acquisition whenever possible, whereby a compensation package for the easement is negotiated and agreed by both ACTEW and the landowner. These negotiations are underway and some landowners have already agreed to ACTEW's offer of compensation. Other landowners have taken up ACTEW's offer to pay for a second independent valuation of the proposed easement.

ACTEW remains hopeful that agreements with satisfactory outcomes for both the landowners directly affected by the pipeline route and ACTEW will be reached on a voluntary basis.

It is important to note that if a compulsory acquisition process is commenced due to the critical nature of the project, any such acquisition must be approved by the Minister for Water and the owner or occupier will be able to state their case opposing acquisition, before the Minister will make any decision on the matter.

### Want to know more?

As always, ACTEW welcomes your feedback, queries and views on the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer as well as other Water Security projects and is available for presentations and briefings to local community groups.



ACTEW in partnership with ActewAGL