

# Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer

Community update – November 2010



ACTEW working with ActewAGL

This newsletter is designed to provide the community with progress updates on the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer.

This project is a vital part of ACTEW's strategy to secure the ACT region's water supply. It involves transferring water from the Murrumbidgee River through a 12km underground pipeline to Burra Creek in NSW. The water will then flow approximately 13 kilometres along Burra Creek into the Googong Reservoir.



Murrumbidgee River at Angle Crossing

## Project receives final approval

On Friday 29 October 2010, ACTEW received the final major environmental approval needed to undertake the Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer. The approval was granted by Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke, MP.

The approval, like those received by the ACT and NSW, is subject to a number of conditions being met. In particular, the Commonwealth approval is conditional on a sustainable extraction plan being finalised. Construction is expected to commence in the ACT in January 2011 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

ACTEW will be holding community information sessions in early 2011 so residents will be aware of construction impacts and our measures to minimise these impacts on the local community.

## Early works program

In October 2010, ACTEW commenced some early works to ensure construction can commence early in the New Year. ACTEW is upgrading Tharwa Sandwash recreation area and the Monaro Highway/Angle Crossing Road intersection. Weed spraying, heritage program activities and site establishment have been the focus of works in recent weeks.

## Tharwa Sandwash upgrade nearly complete

On 1 November 2010, ACTEW commenced upgrade works at Tharwa Sandwash so it can be used as an alternative recreational area during construction works at Angle Crossing. This upgrade, which is being undertaken in partnership with Parks Conservation and Lands, is nearing completion ahead of schedule. This upgrade includes:

- An expansion of the existing carpark and improvements to the carpark surface;
- Construction of stone stairs to provide better access to the river;
- Clearing of debris inhibiting existing access routes; and
- New plantings of native shrubs, trees and grasses to protect banks and to define the newly established picnic area.

We are currently awaiting arrival of six wheelchair friendly picnic tables before reopening the area to the public. We thank the community for their patience during the closure of Tharwa Sandwash.



Tharwa Sandwash works, November 2010

Delivered by the Bulk Water Alliance



### **Monaro Highway/Angle Crossing Road intersection**

Upgrade works have commenced on the intersection of Monaro Highway and Angle Crossing Road to provide a right-turn lane. This will improve safety for traffic travelling south on the Monaro Highway. These works have seen some minor changes in the area's traffic arrangements and your patience is appreciated as this work is undertaken to improve the local road network.

### **Establishment of site facilities**

Site facilities are being established at the corner of the Monaro Highway and Angle Crossing Road. It is anticipated that site establishment works will be completed in January 2011. Hours of work will be from Monday to Friday, 7am – 6pm and Saturday from 8am – 1pm.

Establishment of additional site compounds at Angle Crossing and along the pipeline route are anticipated to commence in January 2011.

While traffic delays related to site establishment works are not anticipated, notification to local residents will be given should delays to traffic management become necessary.

### **Heritage, Flora and Fauna**

In line with ACTEW's commitment to protecting valuable cultural heritage and sensitive flora and fauna, pre-construction surveys for heritage, flora and fauna have now been completed.

This work includes identifying wombat burrows and sensitive species, as well as marking trees within the pipeline corridor which have been identified as significant as they potentially harbour native fauna (i.e. being a hollow bearing tree).

ACTEW will continue to work closely with individual landowners and interested community members to ensure flora and fauna of significance in the area are duly considered and natural amenity preserved where possible.

Weed spraying will be ongoing for the duration of the project to support related environmental strategies.



*Identifying sensitive Flora during recent surveys, October 2010*

### **How will commencement of works impact you?**

ACTEW realises that the imminent commencement of works in the local community will impact on residents, particularly those in Williamsdale and Burra.

We will continue to work closely with the local community and landowners to ensure they understand the impact of construction and ways in which we will work to minimise these impacts. This includes developing specific property interaction plans with landowners affected by the pipeline either in or near their property and working together to agree on landscape reinstatement plans.

As part of our community engagement program we will be holding community drop in sessions in January so the community and landowners can speak directly with the construction team. Invitations about these sessions will be provided in the near future.



*Keeping the community informed*

### **Are your contact details up to date?**

ACTEW will keep you informed about the project throughout construction and regularly seek your feedback.

Key to minimising the impact of works is providing local residents with up to date notifications about the program of works including times and locations, changes to this schedule, traffic changes and noise and air monitoring information.

As such, please make sure you provide us with any changes to your recent contact details or provide those you haven't already – in particular mobile phone numbers.

For more project information, to discuss any concerns you may have about the project or to register/update your contact details, please contact the ACTEW Water Security Information Line details below.

In the event of an emergency please call **1800 211 242** (24 hours).