

## Murrumbidgee to Googong Water Transfer Community update – February 2009

This update is to provide the community with up to date information as the project develops.

In addition to community meetings and regular updates, community members are encouraged to contact us with any questions or comments.

### What's been happening lately?

The ACTEW project team has been busy throughout December and January undertaking field surveys in the Williamsdale and Burra area.

These studies form an important part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) report currently being prepared. The studies will be included as appendices within the EA document.

- **Geotechnical**

The geotechnical team have been completing tests throughout the pipeline corridor to assess sub surface conditions and determine any potential construction issues.

- **Aquatic ecology**

Specialists were recently out at Burra Creek and the Murrumbidgee River to investigate potential impacts on aquatic ecology.

The findings indicate that an increase in water transfer is expected to improve the platypus habitat within Burra Creek.

- **Geomorphology**

Fluvial geomorphologists (who investigate river flows) have been doing field assessments, such as inspecting river bank shape, to understand the existing condition of waterways at the Murrumbidgee River and Burra Creek.

In particular, a limestone karst study has examined the London Bridge arch, an important heritage feature. The findings indicate that increased water flow will have no significant impact upon the natural, heritage listed London Bridge arch.

- **Cultural heritage**

Archaeological surveys have been undertaken in partnership with local Aboriginal groups, to look for surface evidence of cultural heritage sites and landforms.

- **Social impacts**

Social impact assessors have been consulting with individuals and community groups within the Burra area to identify the potential positive and negative social impacts of this project.

Key concerns raised include potential disturbance to stock and animals and access to community recreational areas.

- **Flora and fauna**

Flora and fauna sampling has been undertaken to assess the presence of rare and threatened species of plant and animal. Some further sampling will be undertaken during the coming month.

### What's next?

With most of the field studies completed, work progresses to prepare the EA and finalise the preferred pipeline route.

The EA will be on public display about May 2009. This is an important opportunity for the community to make public comment for consideration by government decision makers.

In addition, ACTEW is proposing to hold a community information session in March to present the key findings of the report, prior to it being on public display. The community will be notified about the meeting through correspondence and advertisements in local newspapers.

ACTEW will continue to liaise with potentially affected landholders on a regular basis about specific issues and finalisation of the pipeline route.

### Water Security – Major Projects

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



ACTEW in partnership with ActewAGL