

Going with the Flow



Did you know that the Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline Project proposes to take water from an already stressed Goulburn Murray River system?

At What Cost???

- **To the food bowl**

The Goulburn Murray region is Australia's most important irrigation area, well recognised as the food bowl of Australia with the Goulburn Valley accounting for well over one quarter of Victoria's agricultural output.

source <http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au>

"We have experienced eleven years of drought and the driest year on record last year," Mr Jennings, Minister for the Environment and Climate Change said.
(Press release **13 November 2007**)

- **To Victorians**

Dire environmental, economic and social impacts

- **To Melbourne consumers**

Average water bills in Melbourne, currently at least 20 per cent lower than any other any capital city, are expected to double over the next five years, with the desalination plant and Sugarloaf pipeline accounting for almost half the increase.

(Press release **13 November 2007**)

- **To communities along the pipeline**

A referral for a decision on the need for an assessment under the Environment Effects Act 1978 (EES Referral) for the Sugarloaf Pipeline has been lodged with the Minister for Planning, Project Director, Melbourne Water, Rod Clifford said today. "The referral follows an intensive program of field work and research and is supported by a range of detailed environmental, geological, social and cultural heritage assessments conducted over recent months." (Press release **21 November 2007**)

**WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THESE ASSESSMENTS? WHAT CRITERIA?
WHAT WEIGHTING?**

**WHAT DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMUNITY AND
COUNCILS? FAST-TRACKED...**

With regard to the actual path of the pipeline through our region, Community 3775 Pipeline Group has agreed on several principles to achieve the least damaging route:-

- Construction should only be on public land.
- There should be minimal environmental destruction.
- Rural families and people should benefit.
- Farming and rural enterprises must not suffer.
- Existing easements must be used (roads, aqueduct etc).
- Tunnel to avoid private property or environmental destruction.

Applying these principles, would lead to an alignment which, from the State Forest, would go along the Melba Highway public land as far as the Maroondah Aqueduct and then follow the Aqueduct to Sugarloaf.

This proposal will have major impacts, both short and long-term, on our community. Private property could be impacted, transport and access restricted, environmental quality destroyed, and much, much more. There is an obvious potential for this pipeline to tear our close-knit communities apart.

THIS WILL AFFECT YOU!!!

For more information contact representatives of Community 3775 Pipeline Group:

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OR

Melbourne Water: 1800 453 753

http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/current_projects/sugarloaf_pipeline_project/sugarloaf_pipeline_project.asp