

March 2009

BULLETIN

NO. 5

MOKOAN DIVERTERS PIPELINE



Produced by Goulburn-Murray Water

Progress Update

The \$14.5 million Lake Mokoan Diverter pipeline, which Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) started construction of in August 2008, is now over 95% complete. The objective of this pipeline is to provide a reliable, year round water supply to existing irrigators as well as domestic and stock customers around the lake.

Nearing scheduled completion, the installation of fittings along the pipeline is underway, with 95% of farm outlet customer service points already installed and 90% of spur line works completed.



Laying of 450 mm diameter PVC pipe lengths in progress.

Works still to be finalised along the main pipeline include the connections between the water meter and diverter's existing works or service points. Fencing work is also yet to be undertaken around each of the water meter compounds.

The building and civil construction phase for the pump station is also nearing completion, with all pump and pipework installed and the electrical cable, switchboards and control panel installation well advanced.

The first phase of the outlet channel deepening, to supply water from the Broken River to the new pump station, was completed in October 2008. Phase Two works progressing downstream of the Benalla-Yarrowonga Road are now also complete. Work included the removal of silt to facilitate flow back up the channel from Casey's Weir. These works involved the construction of a hole below the existing channel flow measuring weir, also aimed at facilitating flow back.

The Operational Storage earthworks and bank building activities are now finished. Final shaping of the banks and rock armouring to protect against wave action is nearing completion. The inlet and outlet structures are currently under construction and will be completed by mid March.

CFA Agreement

As noted in the previous Bulletin #4 in January, all project works have been designed with an appreciation of the need to support CFA efforts in the area. Such elements, agreed with the CFA, include tapping point connections along the pipeline, provision of a number of water storage tanks and purpose built water access at the Operational Storage. These measures are intended to provide ongoing availability to water for fire fighting vehicles and aircraft. The CFA are currently sourcing funds to provide a further two storage tanks along the pipeline.

Programme To Completion

The major construction program was largely completed by the end of February 2009. Full system operation will occur

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once the concrete anchor blocks which have been cast around valves, as well as other fittings along the pipeline, have cured and achieved the required strength for the pipeline to pass testing. Electrical and control installations at the pump station remain to be completed.

A temporary pump installation has been installed to allow water, currently stored in large borrow pits near the Lake Mokoan embankment, to be pumped into the completed sections of pipeline. This will allow the main pump station pumps to be commissioned and progressively brought on line. It is expected deliveries of water from the pipeline will gradually increase over the month of March as more of the pumps are commissioned. The pipeline and other project works are anticipated to be completed by the end of March, enabling manual operation of the scheme. Full commissioning, including automatic operation, is anticipated to be completed in April 2009.



Above: Preparing for final concrete pour on top of the 'wet well' which provides the connection between channel and the pump station pumps

Commissioning

G-MW will be progressively contacting all diverters throughout March and April. This is to arrange access for connection of existing works to the new service points, testing of diverter's pumps and to organise the commissioning of each service point once the system is fully operational.

Thorough and extensive commissioning tests are essential. This is so that G-MW can ensure that the pump station operates and performs as intended, with service delivery at each diverter's service point meeting the required standards. These tests will ensure that the system achieves a key project objective of delivering an accurate, automatic operation, which assists in creating a reliable water supply for diverters.

Future Tariffs And Pricing

Diverters supplied from the new Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline will continue to be treated equally as other Broken System diverters in terms of tariff and pricing. The pipeline scheme is considered to be a "part of the river" in this respect. The same price and tariff structure will apply across the entire Broken System.

How To Order Water

As with all irrigation diverters in the Broken System, water taken from the Lake Diverters Pipeline will need to be ordered. This will ensure that sufficient water is released from Lake Nillahcootie to meet the pipeline scheme needs.

When ordering, diverters will be asked to supply a User ID and PIN number. To obtain these, they must contact their Diversion Inspector, Glen Payne, on **0417 013 385**.

For diverters with internet access to order water, they will need to access the G-MW website, www.g-mwater.com.au, and click on the 'Waterline' link.

For diverters without internet access, or wishing to order water by telephone, please dial 'Waterline' on **03 5832 9999**.

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When ordering, water diverters will need to provide G-MW with their flow rate, duration and start date. Four (4) working days notice is required to allow water to be released from Lake Nillahcootie. **Failure to provide this notice may result in diverters not receiving their water order on time or at the correct flow rate.**

There is no requirement for customers who have a domestic and stock only tapping from the pipeline to order water.



Above: Excavator fitted with a "Pizza Cutter" used to place and compact sand and earth backfill following laying of pipes.

Future Maintenance

For diversions taken directly from the pipeline, G-MW will be responsible for all future system maintenance up to and including the metering enclosure. All pipework and fittings beyond the meter enclosure will be privately owned and therefore must be maintained by the diversion license holder.

For diversions taken from the suction pit at the Operational Pondage, the diversion license holder will own and be responsible for the maintenance of all suction pipework and fittings from the suction pit. G-MW will still own and maintain the diversion meter and associated remote monitoring equipment.



*Above: Construction of drainage works for pump station
Below: Outlet Channel deepening works in progress with construction of a hole below the flow measuring weir to allow water to pass up the channel to the new pump station.*



Future Right of Access

Following decommissioning of Lake Mokoan, it is anticipated that the ownership of Lake Mokoan Lands will change to a form of Crown Land reservation. In the process of changing land status, G-MW will seek that legal rights regarding the entire pipeline scheme in the future are protected.

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This will include rights for diversion license holders to access, operate, maintain and replace their respective assets which may be located on the reserved Crown Land.

Provision For Future Additional Customers

G-MW proposes to monitor and test the system performance through a year of operation to ensure that commitments to current diversion license holders are held. Following this period, G-MW will review the schemes performance to determine if any surplus capacity exists in the system and **may** then consider allowing additional customers onto the system.

At this stage, it is expected that additional domestic and stock customers may be accommodated. A decision on this will be held over for 12 months and will not be undertaken until existing pipeline scheme users are consulted.

Future Updates

With the completion of the pipeline construction work scheduled for March, this project is set to enter a new and very exciting phase. G-MW look forward to providing relevant updates as new key milestones occur, two of which are the planning of an official opening in the near future and the formal commencement of the scheme's operation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more details of information contained in this fact sheet, please refer to the following:

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