



Construction

Environmental Management Plan

GWMWater, Councils, Catchment Management Authorities, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and other agencies have been involved in developing an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), for construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project.

The EMP defines how to manage environmental issues arising during the construction phase of the pipeline, based on legislative requirements and community expectations.

It provides for:

- > Soil erosion and sediment
- > Water quality eg site run-off
- > Air quality eg dust controls
- > Noise controls
- > Vegetation management
- > Cultural heritage (indigenous and European)
- > Chemical and fuel management
- > Waste
- > Traffic

Site-specific plans will be developed by the contractors engaged to build the pipeline. These plans will address local issues and high value areas.

Indigenous cultural heritage

Archaeological surveys and assessment work provide the basis for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the pipeline project.

Regional indigenous groups are currently working with pipeline planners to ensure that construction avoids identified areas of cultural significance and that potential sites are monitored during construction.

Indigenous groups are reviewing survey information, working on protocols for the construction phase, assessing training needs for monitors and working with pipeline planners to ensure that pipeline construction does not impact on heritage sites.

The first stage of the project involves Supply System 1 (Dooen to Yaapeet line) and Supply System 7 (Lake Bellfield to Taylors Lake). Cultural heritage discussions for this first stage have involved Goolum Goolum, Brambuk and Barenji Gajin indigenous groups.

Initial discussions with indigenous groups in other areas has also commenced.

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Further information regarding construction is available by contacting the **Horsham Piping It Office** on **1300 659 961** or by dropping into the office at **42-44 Kalkee Road**.

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Real people, real stories



GWMWater chairman Barry Clugston and Barengi Gadjin elder 'Aunty' Irene Harrison look at plans for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline which will be constructed on land traditionally owned by the Barengi Gadjin people. Photo courtesy of Wimmera Mail-Times.

Indigenous leaders have applauded a cultural heritage agreement with GWMWater for the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project. Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and GWMWater have signed a historic agreement to recognise the partnership between project construction and cultural heritage. As part of the agreement, the aboriginal corporation is providing cultural heritage monitoring services to the project.

Council chairperson Nancy Harrison said building a piped water supply for the Wimmera Mallee was an important regional project. She said it was vital that everyone worked together to complete the pipeline while taking native title and cultural heritage values into account. "We are very happy to be working with GWMWater on this project, and this agreement recognises the partnership that we've formed," she said.

Wimmera Mallee Pipeline works at sites in the Wotjobaluk native title area will be monitored by Barengi Gajin. These sites include crossings of the Wimmera River at Gross' Bridge near Drung, at Tarranyurk and near Wail Nursery.

GWMWater Board Chairman Barry Clugston said it was great to develop a partnership with the traditional landowners. "For too long, the indigenous people's links with the land have been overlooked," Mr Clugston said. "We look forward to working with the Council in a positive way in the future as construction of the pipeline rolls out."