

# project factsheet

January 2010

## Country Fire Authority Water Access Points

Incorporated into the design of the Sugarloaf Pipeline are a series of off-take points for the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to access water to fight fires.

Early Sugarloaf Pipeline consultations included plans to incorporate these water access points, however, after the 'Black Saturday' bushfires in February 2009 devastated much of the region, the need for the access points to support CFA activities has become even more important.

This fact sheet details the locations and gives a general overview about the CFA water access points.

### Locations

There are six CFA access points along the 70km length of the Sugarloaf Pipeline. The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance worked with CFA headquarters, local CFA brigades, VicRoads, local councils and Melbourne Water to determine the best locations for these access points. Each location was chosen for its proximity to the Melba Highway, visibility and unencumbered vehicular access.

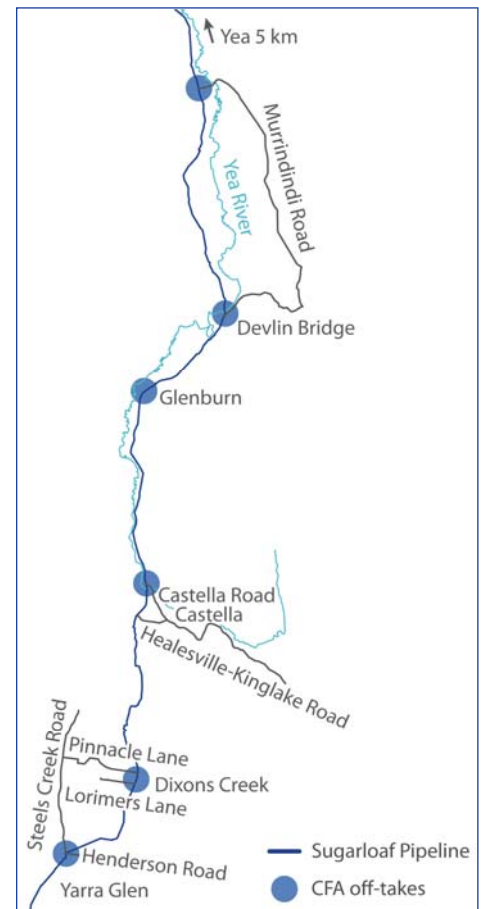
The six CFA access points are located at:

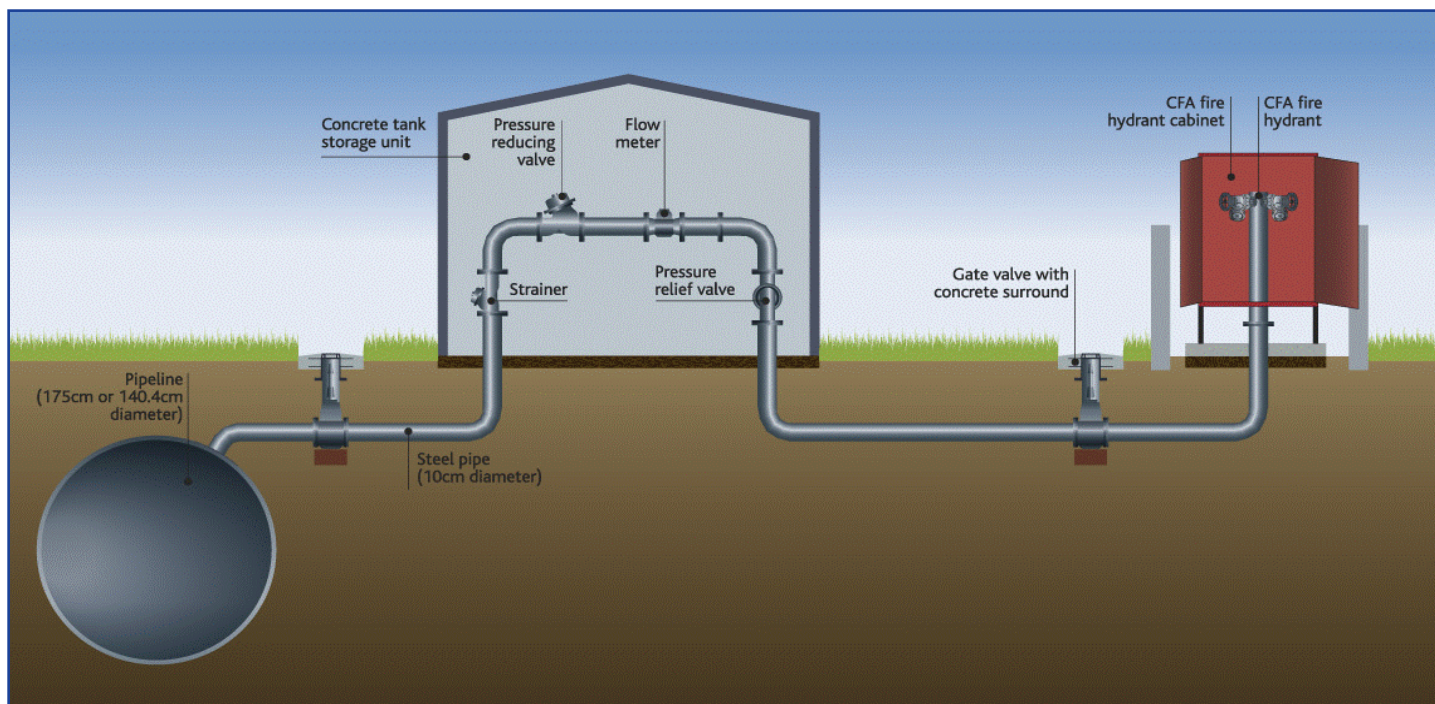
- Murrindindi Road reserve, south of Yea
- Devlin Bridge
- Glenburn CFA station
- Castella Road, Castella
- Dixons Creek recreation reserve, Dixons Creek
- Henderson Road reserve, Yarra Glen.

### CFA water access points

Water travelling along the Sugarloaf Pipeline is under significant pressure. As a consequence, drawing water from it for use by the CFA is not as simple as adding a 'tap'. The associated piping uses pressure reduction valves before the water eventually reaches the hydrant. These valves (and other flow meters and valves) are housed in a separate concrete structure that looks like a water tank.

Much of the associated pipe work is buried underground and a Crown licence or easement has been acquired for each CFA access point. Five of the six CFA access points are on public land.





From the concrete structure, the pipe work runs underground to the CFA fire hydrant. These hydrants will be in a locked cabinet accessible by Melbourne Water and local CFA brigades.

In periods when the pipeline is not actively transferring water from the Goulburn River to the Sugarloaf Reservoir, water from the access points will still be available to the CFA. For operational reasons, the Sugarloaf Pipeline will remain full most

of the time. The one million litre control tank in Toolangi State Forest ensures water taken from the access points is constantly recharged.

Given that the Sugarloaf Pipeline runs through fire-prone areas of the State, these access points will provide the CFA with permanent water and reduce the need to access farm dams, creeks and rivers.

Construction of the CFA water access points started in October 2009 and all six

access points became fully operational when the Sugarloaf Pipeline began final water testing in mid-January 2010.

### Maintenance

The CFA water access point structures will be maintained by both the CFA and Melbourne Water: the CFA is responsible for maintaining the fire hydrants and cabinets, while Melbourne Water is responsible for maintaining all associated valves and pipe work.