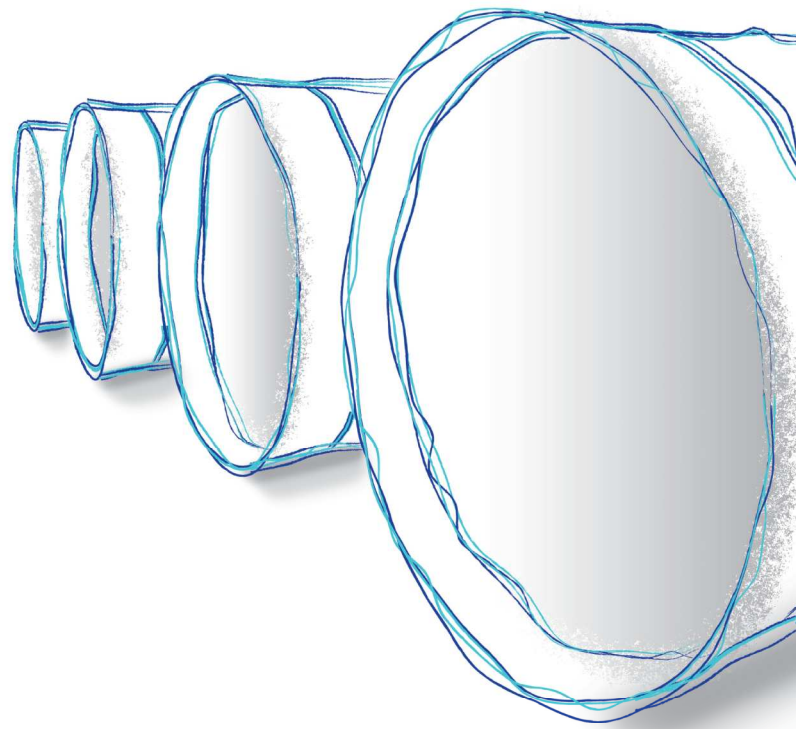




# project factsheet



June 2009

## Reinstatement

When the pipeline is laid, it is time for soil reinstatement to begin. Successfully reinstating the soil over the pipeline is as important to the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance as it is to landowners and other stakeholders. The Alliance is spending \$21 million on reinstatement. We are talking to landowners, consulting with soil, agricultural and revegetation experts and using specialised contractors to ensure the job is done right.

This fact sheet provides answers to some of the questions often asked by landowners about the reinstatement process.

### What happens after construction?

Following the completion of all construction activities, land affected by the pipeline will be reinstated as nearly as practicable to its original condition.

Topsoil that is stockpiled during construction will be used to reinstate the land. The corridor will remain fenced off for up to one year after reinstatement to

mitigate against animal diseases that may exist and to prevent grazing or other activities that could compromise the quality of the reinstatement works.

### When will reinstatement occur?

Reinstatement will occur as soon as possible after the pipeline has been laid. This will depend on seasonal factors such as rainfall and temperature, with work timed to ensure optimal results. Timing will also be subject to the presence of above-ground structures such as air valves and scour valves, which may take additional time to complete after the pipeline is laid.

Reinstatement involves several steps: backfilling of the trench, preparation of subsoil, spreading of topsoil and seed, and measures to prevent erosion.

### What requirements exist to protect owners?

Under the *Water Act 1989* (Vic), we are obliged to reinstate land, as nearly as practicable, to the same or better

condition in which we found it. We are committed to meeting this obligation.

Prior to construction, 'Special Conditions for Construction and Reinstatement' assessments are prepared for each individual property. These assessments are based on information obtained from meetings with landowners and between landowners and an Independent Agricultural Advisor.

This assessment identifies important assets on each property. It also details measures to be used to avoid or mitigate impacts. Landowners are consulted about how they want the land reinstated, including pasture types and rates, fertilizer type and quantity, and if gypsum is required.

### Will landowners be consulted about the reinstatement process?

Your designated Land and Property Officer will arrange to meet with you before and after reinstatement. The



Alliance will also seek advice from the Independent Agricultural Advisor throughout the reinstatement process.

### Once reinstatement is complete, how will the easement be used?

During construction a corridor of land approximately 30 metres wide (wider in some places to allow vehicles to turn around) will be required. However, the final registered easement will only be 10 to 15 metres wide.

The easement will protect the pipeline and allow for future maintenance if required. It will restrict the construction of significant buildings over the pipeline, but is unlikely to affect land uses such as grazing.

Throughout the operational phase, Melbourne Water will work closely with affected landowners to minimise disruption to the current and future use of their land as a result of the pipeline.

Generally, the easement will be unencumbered. The only exception to this is at locations where above ground fittings such as valves require protection from damage. In these cases, structures are being designed to ensure maintenance impacts on landowners are minimised.

### Further information

*Water Act 1989 (Vic)*, Section 134

Project Fact Sheet – Construction and Reinstatement

Project Fact Sheet – Construction Process