



project factsheet

October 2009

Cultural Heritage Management

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance is committed to the protection of cultural heritage. In designing the pipeline corridor we have worked closely with local and Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV).

Project team investigations and activities have resulted in the recording of over 50 new Aboriginal places and 30 new historical heritage sites. Under the direction of AAV and community representatives, Alliance archaeologists have also salvaged artefacts from more than 15 Aboriginal places and three historical sites.

Indigenous cultural heritage management

To help in the preservation of artefact and sensitive sites, the Alliance has developed a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in close consultation with elders from the Taungurung, Wurundjeri and Wandoon Aboriginal communities. This plan has also been assessed and approved by AAV.

Under the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, the Alliance's objectives are to ensure:

1. protect and avoid known places of Indigenous cultural significance, wherever possible
2. protect previously unrecorded historic Indigenous places from disturbance where impacts can be avoided
3. manage impacts on known and previously unrecorded Indigenous places where those impacts are unavoidable.

Any impacts on Indigenous cultural heritage will comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic). The management strategy for all such impacts is detailed in the Alliance's Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

As a result of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, the Alliance has:

- altered the alignment of the 70km Sugarloaf Pipeline in several places

to avoid impacting sensitive sites, after recognising the sensitivity of working in close proximity to areas of high cultural significance

- undertaken surveys in areas likely to contain cultural heritage artefacts, in accordance with criteria laid down in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic)
- added significantly to knowledge of cultural heritage in the region through extensive surveys conducted along the alignment in cooperation with local Aboriginal communities
- adopted strict controls during construction to secure new artefacts. These controls include consultation with local Aboriginal community representatives.

Extensive salvage work has been undertaken at two significant Aboriginal places: Pert's West 1 site and the Wee Creek site, where a number of artefacts were scattered. In cooperation with local Aboriginal communities and using



a mechanical sieve and excavator, Alliance archaeologists collected over 300 artefacts. These items will undergo a detailed analysis to reveal any patterns in their use and distribution. Following this analysis, they will be handed back to the local Aboriginal communities who will decide whether to use them for training and education purposes, store them at keeping places or return them to the location where they were found.

Non-Indigenous cultural heritage management

The Cultural Heritage Report is the Alliance’s leading mechanism for mitigating and managing impacts on non-Indigenous or historical cultural heritage. The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (as discussed earlier) deals solely with Indigenous cultural heritage.

The Alliance’s objectives for non-Indigenous cultural heritage management are to:

- 1. protect known sites of cultural significance where impacts can be avoided
- 2. protect previously unrecorded historical sites from disturbance where impacts can be avoided
- 3. manage impacts on known and previously unrecorded historical sites where impacts are unavoidable.

Impacts to non-Indigenous cultural heritage will comply with the *Heritage Act 1995 (Vic)*.

Council advice and any necessary permits will be obtained for places listed in the ‘Heritage Overlays’ (an order to protect places of significance) for Murrindindi, Yarra Ranges or Nillumbik shire councils impacted by the Sugarloaf Pipeline.



Excavation of the water well at the former Junction Hotel site in Yarra Glen unearthed various relics, including bottles, ironwork, horse equipment and a toothbrush!

Heritage Victoria permits and consents will be obtained to undertake work on or near any sites that are listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory or the Victorian Heritage Register.

At the early planning stage, the Alliance acknowledged the historic significance of Killingworth Station and the James Drysdale Homestead, both near Yea, by shifting the Sugarloaf Pipeline alignment to ensure the preservation of both sites.

In Yarra Glen, a previously unknown water well, which was part of the former Junction Hotel, was discovered by the Alliance. Its location has now been recorded by the Alliance archaeological team, who are

working with the Yarra Glen and District Historical Society to complete further investigations. As a result of this work, the water well and the dozens of disgarded relics discovered inside will be preserved for future generations.

The approach of the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance represents best practice and is consistent with the standard applied to other large construction projects across Victoria.