

Cultural heritage commitment

Developing excellent working relationships with Traditional Owners is a key focus for LinkWater Projects in the design and construction of our major bulk water pipelines. Our pipelines have passed through the lands of five Aboriginal groups. We have demonstrated the highest level of compliance both with the relevant legislation as well as through the implementation of our duty of care requirements. Our relationships with Traditional Owners have resulted in a number of positive community legacies.

Increased cultural awareness and promotion of heritage conservation is a key performance indicator for all of our projects. Prior to construction, each pipeline project undergoes extensive assessments for possible impacts on native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Detailed cultural heritage management plans are developed, in consultation with Traditional Owners, which guide the construction methodology and involve Aboriginal groups at each step.

With each project, the following steps were taken:

- Research involving surveys to identify heritage sites.
- Where possible, avoid impact to sites.
- Where impact cannot be avoided, record the site and undertake monitoring during construction.
- Monitor for unexpected finds.

Beyond our legislative compliance benchmarks for Native Title and cultural heritage, outlined below are some highlights from each project alliance which demonstrate our commitment to Traditional Owners.

Southern Regional Water Pipeline Alliance

- The 94km Southern Regional Water Pipeline passes through the Jinibara, Jagera, Southern Area (the Southern Area group consists of several individuals and representative groups) and the Eastern Yugambah land.



Searching for artefacts prior to construction for the Toowoomba Pipeline

- The 8.4km Eastern Pipeline Interconnector passes through Jagera land.
- The 47km Northern Pipeline Interconnector – Stage 1 passes through Gubbi Gubbi land.
- More than 110 staff underwent cultural heritage training across the alliance. In doing so, alliance personnel improved their knowledge and skills about Indigenous issues. Strong positive working relationships were formed by valuing diversity and sharing cultural and technical knowledge.
- Inductions, toolbox talks and lunchtime seminars by Traditional Owners and heritage specialists.
- Special events were held such as a NAIDOC week BBQ and an Elder presentation to a local primary school.
- The alliance sponsored an academic research report on stone artefact analysis by cultural heritage specialists for the Jinibara people.
- Employment opportunities through contracting Traditional Owner representatives to manage cultural heritage, such as artefact collection and monitoring.

Toowoomba Pipeline Alliance

- The 38km Toowoomba Pipeline passes through Jagera Daran and Jarowir Gaibal land.
- Jagera Daran was initially engaged in March 2008 to undertake preliminary alignment option surveys. These helped determine the final alignment, resulting in the least impact on cultural heritage.
- All Jagera Daran staff were inducted onto the project and those that were required to be driving on the construction corridor received external 4WD training.
- A cultural heritage management agreement was formed in early January 2009. This was signed by the appropriate Elders of the Jagera and Jarowir Gaibal people and provided guidelines and a degree of certainty to all parties involved.
- Artefacts identified and found along the alignment by Jagera Daran, predominantly during the "clear and grade" phase of construction, were isolated with blue and white striped tape and had GPS recordings taken. Jagera Daran will determine their future location.
- Since December 2008, 17 of Jagera Daran's cultural heritage officers have spent 2484 hours on the project, two Elders have spent 645 hours on the project, and their project manager has spent 52 hours on the project, giving a total of 3181 staff hours.
- Five interactive cultural heritage inductions were presented by Jagera Daran to the project's field and office staff. These were well received and improved the limited understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage that many non-Australian staff had.
- A legacy project has commenced at the Esk State School in collaboration with the Yuggera tribe. A cultural heritage garden with traditional bush tucker plants has been planted by school



Stone artefact identified during preliminary survey by Eastern Yugamba land, October 2006

children, with associated workshops to be held with each of the school's seven classes.

Northern Network Alliance

- The 48km Northern Pipeline Interconnector – Stage 2 will pass primarily through Gubbi Gubbi land.
- To establish a relationship with the Gubbi Gubbi people, the NNA has:
 - established Gubbi Gubbi people as the cultural monitors for the project
 - trained NNA staff in cultural heritage monitoring by Dr Eve Fesl, Elder of the Gubbi Gubbi people
 - arranged a 'Welcome to Country' by Dr Fesl to staff at the Chevallum site office. Dr Fesl also led the team in signing the alliance's vision and values poster
 - arranged a formal signing of the cultural heritage management plan on Friday, 9 October 2009 by Dr Eve Fesl, Elder of the Gubbi Gubbi people.

The NNA will continue to maintain a collaborative partnership with the Gubbi Gubbi people during the construction phase of the NPI – Stage 2. This will be achieved by:

- undertaking cultural heritage induction training by Dr Eve Fesl
- investigating the potential to develop Indigenous employment opportunities
- developing and delivering cultural heritage 'legacy outcomes' which may include:
 - presenting any found artefacts to Pomona Historical Museum and the Gubbi Gubbi Exhibit (Awareness and Protection)
 - undertaking some re-vegetation works on a 'culturally significant' parcel of Gubbi land.



Dr Eve Fesl signing the cultural heritage management plan for NPI - Stage 2