Planning and Environment Act 1987

ARARAT PLANNING SCHEME

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS PLANNING SCHEME

PYRENEES PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT GC200

EXPLANATORY REPORT

Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Minister for Planning, who is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMWater).

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment affects land that is required for the use and development of the East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project (the project) within the Ararat Planning Scheme, Northern Grampians Planning Scheme and Pyrenees Planning Scheme (the Planning Schemes). The land required for the project (project area) is approximately 4250 square kilometres generally shown as the "EGRP Project Extent" in Figure 1 and shown as SCO2 on the Ararat Planning Scheme maps, SCO1 on the Pyrenees Planning Scheme maps, and SCO2 on the Northern Grampians Planning Scheme maps.

The Project consists of the following components:

- Approximately 260 kilometres of underground trunk pipes.
- Approximately 1,090 kilometres of underground distribution pipes.
- Approximately four water pump stations.
- Upgrade of the existing Lake Fyans pump station.
- Additional area at each pump station site for a total of 1,000 kW of ground-mounted solar panels, totalling approximately 12,000 square metres.
- Approximately three kilometres of overhead electricity conductor extension to pump stations.
- Approximately two large water storage tank sites.
- Approximately three small storage tank sites.
- Approximately eight water valve stations.
- Approximately ten pressure reducing valve stations.
- Approximately three small break tanks.
- Gravel access tracks of total area approximately 5 metres x 3,7 kilometres to access six of the new pump station and tank sites.
- Firefighting infrastructure including approximately 50 x 22,500 litres fire water tanks and 40 hydrants.
- Installation of customer service water meters, air valves, stop valves and scour valves along with valve marker posts on road reserves at property fence lines.

This Project does not include private infrastructure installed on private property by customers or their agents or contractors connecting to the project infrastructure.

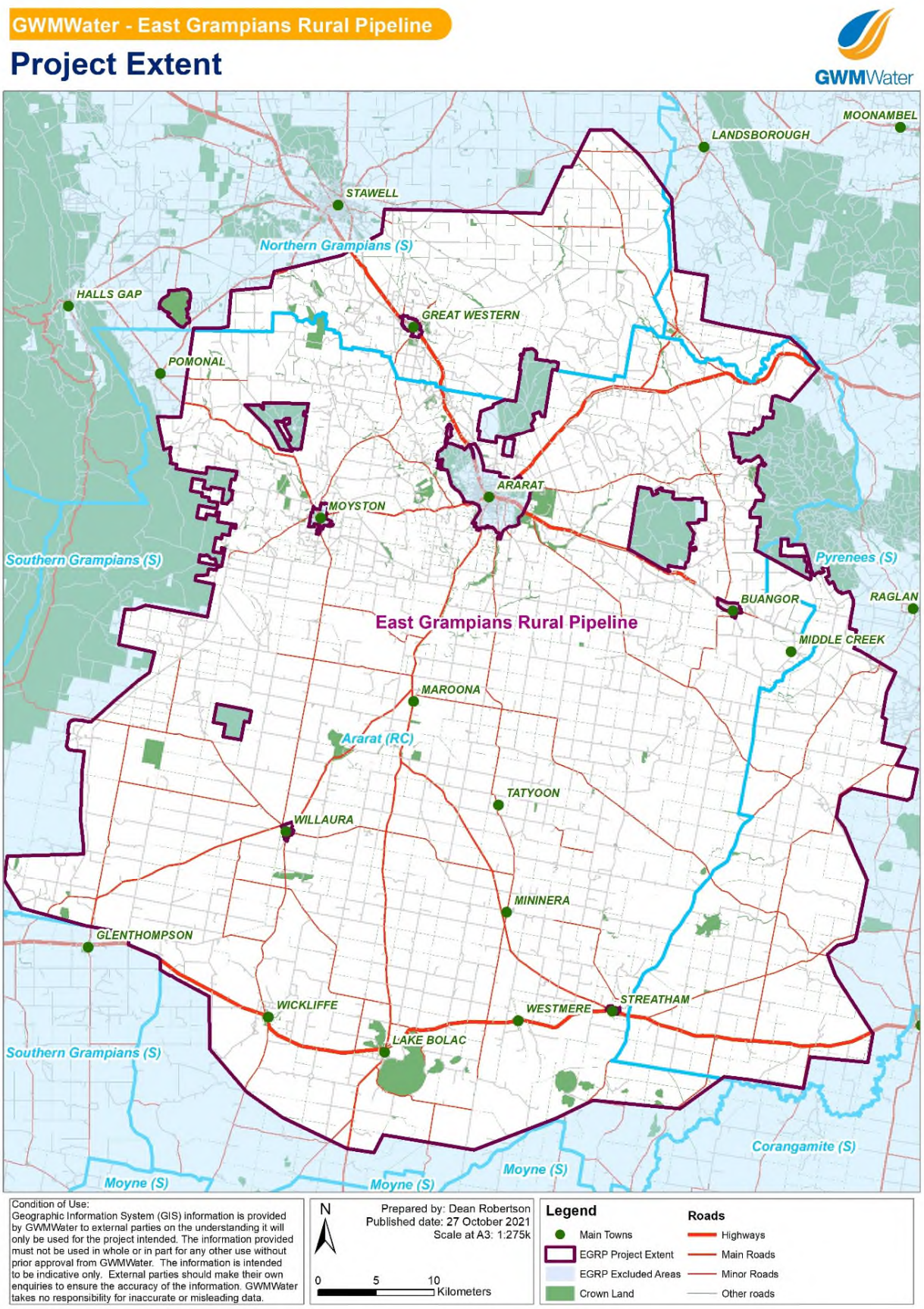

Figure 1 The East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project extent

What the amendment does

The amendment facilitates the project by introducing a new incorporated document titled '*East Grampians Rural Pipeline Project Incorporated Document, December 2021*' (the incorporated document) to the Planning Schemes and applies Clause 45.12 (Specific Controls Overlay) (SCO) to the land required for the project.

In relation to the Ararat Planning Scheme, the amendment:

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 45.12 (Specific Controls Overlay) to include the incorporated document at SCO2.
- Applies the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO2) to land required for the project.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.03 (What Does this Planning Scheme consist of?).
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.04 (Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to include the incorporated document.
- Amends Planning Scheme Map No. 7SCO.
- Inserts new Planning Scheme Map Nos. 1SCO, 2SCO, 3SCO, 4SCO, 5SCO, 6SCO, 8SCO, 9SCO, 11SCO, 12SCO, 13SCO, 14SCO, 15SCO, 16SCO, 17SCO, 18SCO, 19SCO, 20SCO, 21SCO, 22SCO, 23SCO, 24SCO, 25SCO, 26SCO, 27SCO, 28SCO, 29SCO, 30SCO, 31SCO, 32SCO, 33SCO, 34SCO and 35SCO

In relation to the Northern Grampians Planning Scheme, the amendment:

- Amends the Schedule to Clause 45.12 (Specific Controls Overlay) to include the incorporated document at SCO2.
- Applies the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO2) to land required for the project.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.03 (What Does this Planning Scheme consist of?).
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.04 (Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to include the incorporated document.
- Inserts new Planning Scheme Map Nos. 26SCO, 31SCO, 32SCO, 35SCO, 38SCO, 39SCO and 40SCO.

In relation to the Pyrenees Planning Scheme, the amendment:

- Inserts Clause 45.12 (Specific Controls Overlay).
- Inserts the Schedule to Clause 45.12 (Specific Controls Overlay) to include the incorporated document at SCO1.
- Applies the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO1) to land required for the project.
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.03 (What Does this Planning Scheme consist of?).
- Amends the Schedule to Clause 72.04 (Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to include the incorporated document.
- Inserts new Planning Scheme Map Nos. 1SCO, 7SCO, 8SCO, 13SCO, 18SCO, 19SCO, 22SCO and 23SCO.

Strategic assessment of the amendment

Why is the amendment required?

The amendment provides streamlined planning approval to allow GWMWater to deliver the project in a timely and efficient manner. The incorporated document provides a single planning approval pathway for the project, thereby avoiding the need to obtain planning permits and facilitate coordinated delivery of the project.

The project will assist to achieve policy objectives of the Victorian Government's policy *Water for Victoria* (released in October 2016) (Water Plan) by providing a reliable and secure water supply for stock and domestic purposes to up to 1500 rural farming properties in the climate-stressed East Grampians region of Victoria.

The Water Plan sets out a framework and proposals for future water resource management and use across sectors and locations.

The project is directly aligned with the following four strategic policies and regional priorities which are clearly articulated in the Water Plan:

- Water for agriculture.
- Realising the potential of the grid and markets.
- Recognising recreational values.
- Recognising and managing for Aboriginal values.

In the absence of an amendment, the project would be subject to multiple permit requirements under the Ararat, Northern Grampians and Pyrenees Planning Schemes. These include:

- Permit triggers for the use of land associated with the project in the Public Park and Recreation Zone and the Public Conservation and Resource Zone.
- Permit triggers for works associated with the project in the following overlays and their attendant schedules which apply to parts of the project area:
    - Environmental Significance Overlay.
    - Vegetation Protection Overlay.
    - Heritage Overlay.
    - Erosion Management Overlay.
    - Salinity Management Overlay.
    - Permit triggers for removal of vegetation, including (but not limited to) native vegetation under clause 52.17 (Native Vegetation).

A Group of Councils (GC) amendment is considered the most appropriate mechanism to:

- Facilitate the delivery of the project in a timely, coordinated and consistent manner.
- Establish a clear framework to manage potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the project as required by the Minister's decision under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978* (EE Act).

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The following objectives of planning in Victoria, as set out in Section 4(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* are relevant to the amendment:

(a) to provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land;

(b) to provide for the protection of natural and man-made resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity;

(c) to secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria;

(d) to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of special cultural value;

(e) to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community;

(f) to facilitate development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e);

(g) to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

The amendment implements these objectives by facilitating the delivery of a project that will:

- Supply a secure and reliable water supply to landowners living in a drought-affected region, who do not currently benefit from this public infrastructure.
- Be subject to a comprehensive environmental management framework (as established by the Minister's decision under the EE Act) which ensures that these values are protected.
- Generate positive social effects by providing water security to rural properties and increased water for recreational purposes and firefighting.
- Ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage and other heritage within the project area is protected.
- Deliver critical water utility assets to the project area as well as water for recreational uses, e.g. watering of sporting grounds.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

The amendment addresses environmental, social and economic effects by requiring the delivery of the project to comply with the conditions of the incorporated document. The incorporated document requires the preparation of a Project Design and Impact Assessment Report (PDIA) and an Environment Management Framework (EMF) to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning and includes a number of conditions to manage and mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

Several technical assessments have been undertaken to inform design development and to assess the potential environmental, social and economic effects of the project. These technical assessments will inform the PDIA and EMF and conditions within it to avoid, minimise and mitigate the potential impacts of the project.

Environmental effects:

The predicted environmental impacts associated with the project has been assessed under an EE Act referral and will be managed through the following processes:

- Preparation of a Project Design and Impact Assessment Report (PDIA).
- Preparation of an Environment Management Framework (EMF).
- Preparation of a Threatened Species Management Plan (TSMP).
- Preparation of a Native Vegetation Offset Strategy (NVOS).
- Preparation of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)
- Preparation of a Native Vegetation Offset Plan (NVOP).

Additionally, impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage associated with the project are being managed through the preparation of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) approved by First Peoples – State Relations (FP-SR) or relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs).

The draft PDIA for the project identifies that approx. 32 hectares of native vegetation will potentially be impacted, which is less than the estimates provided in the EE Act referral. The EMF will include a change management process to ensure impacts and risk associated with the project are appropriately managed.

The preliminary project design was amended to avoid environmental effects identified during on-ground surveys. The project has assessed native vegetation impacts over several iterations of pipeline

alignments to optimise avoidance and minimisation measures. Ancillary areas for set-down and pump stations are sited in areas already heavily disturbed such as cropped agricultural land. Where the pipeline corridor could not avoid such areas, impacts will be limited through use of low-impact construction techniques such as horizontal direct drilling (HDD) to bore underneath sensitive areas or ploughing-in pipe to reduce impact corridor and minimise ground disturbance. Similarly, where the pipeline is near native trees, the alignment has been locally re-designed to avoid Tree Protection Zones. The pipeline corridor is predominantly on private land (at 8 to 12 metres inside the private property boundary) in order to minimise potential environmental impacts given the greater concentration of environmentally sensitive areas on public land. The alignment has prioritised utilising existing cleared land to minimising impacts on existing vegetation, including native vegetation.

Ecological Control Points (ECPs) were created for the entire construction corridor and used by the ecologists as a mechanism to quantify predicted impacts to native vegetation. The entire construction process will be subject to an approved CEMP and will be monitored by GWMWater staff as well as specialists engaged by the contractors to ensure the required standards are being met. All sites with environmental and cultural significance will be assessed post-construction in accordance with the EMF and CEMP.

In the draft EMF for the project, GWMWater commits to six-monthly independent audits during the construction process, to be carried out by appropriate expert auditors. The independent audit outcomes will be used to monitor and improve environmental management performance. The project will have the following positive environmental effects, namely:

- Promoting the return of water currently intercepted by multiple on-farm dams back to the environment. Less reliance on farm dams due to the provision of a reticulated water supply is expected to restore environmental flows to regional rivers and wetlands, including the Hopkins and Wimmera River catchments.

- Providing the opportunity for increased riparian zone protection by reducing the need for stock to drink from natural waterways once reticulated water supply is provided. Sections of waterways and wetlands currently accessed by stock for drinking will be able to be fenced to exclude stock access.

- Delivery of water to culturally or environmentally significant sites to maintain important refugia or cultural value. Volumes available for this supply will be limited and will need to be specifically targeted at high-value areas.

- Enabling GWMWater to optimise the use of bulk water entitlements held in the Wimmera-Glenelg basin, for the benefit of all customers (urban, rural, recreational and environmental).

Social effects:

The amendment facilitates the project that will enhance community wellbeing by reducing economic and personal stress associated with times of drought. Provision of a safe and secure water supply will improve quality of life and ensure a sustainable lifestyle for residents in the arid climate associated with the project area.

The project will provide additional water for recreational purposes, including supply of non-potable water for watering sporting grounds, community open spaces and other recreational locations.

The project will also improve access to firefighting water in the project area, improving the response capability of Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigades to be better able to protect regional assets.

GWMWater's cooperation and collaboration with RAPs in relation to the project is expected to lead to positive benefits including:

- Building the capacity of the water sector to engage with Traditional Owners to increase their participation in water management.

- Identifying and registering new Aboriginal heritage places discovered through cultural heritage surveys.

- The ability to identify potential areas for cultural watering which may be serviced by the project.

Economic effects:

By facilitating the delivery of the project, the amendment generates positive economic effects for the individual landowners who will be supplied with water, as well as for the wider economy of the region.

The business case for the project predicted that the project would generate an overall economic benefit of $215 million and create or protect 82 jobs. The business case assessed the project as having a positive benefit to cost ratio of 2.2.

The project will facilitate increased agricultural production and investment (particularly in intensive production such as vineyards, piggeries and feedlots). This will have wider regional flow-on effects with an increase in the goods and services purchased in the region. The intensive livestock sector is expected to generate spin-off businesses such as feed-mills and waste handling facilities, along with increased demand for transport and warehousing. The improved water supply may also increase traditional grazing production.

The project reduces the risks of drought and fire damage for farmers within the project area, thereby increasing the economic viability of their businesses.

The project also generates short-term benefits in addition to those considered in the business case, including:

- Creation of 44 jobs and protection of 50 jobs in the pipeline construction activities.
- Employment of more than 12 members of RAPs for cultural heritage surveys and worksite supervision.
- Flow-on benefits for the wider regional economy from the purchase of plant, equipment and services.

The region may also receive an increase in tourism from the provision of water for recreational and environmental purposes by the project.

Finally, the project will improve the public water grid asset by connecting the larger Grampians storages (Lake Bellfield and Lake Fyans) with the smaller isolated Mt Cole reservoir and Mt William headworks system, which will maximise resource management flexibility and capability.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The amendment has a positive impact on addressing bushfire risk through the potential for increased water supply for firefighting purposes resulting from construction of the project.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment is consistent with the *Ministerial Direction - The Form and Content of Planning Schemes* under section 7(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The amendment has been prepared having regard to the *Minister's Direction No. 11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments.* The amendment has also been prepared with consideration of the revised Practice Note – *Strategic Assessment Guidelines for Planning Scheme Amendments.*

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The following clauses of the Planning Policy Framework are relevant to the amendment:

Clause 11.01-1S Settlement

The objective of clause 11.01-1S-1 is *to promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements*.

The provision of a secure water supply network would facilitate growth, economic development and prosperity of the region. The provision of a secure water supply would support the community in extreme weather events such as droughts.

Clause 12.01-1S Protection of biodiversity

The objective of clause 12.01-1S is *to assist the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity*.

The amendment assists in achieving this objective by establishing a comprehensive environmental management framework in accordance with the conditions of the incorporated document, which would ensure that flora, fauna and biodiversity sites are adequately protected.

The amendment and other supporting documentation support clause 12.01-1S to assist the protection and conservation of Victoria's biodiversity by considering this matter throughout the project development process. The project has been subject to an exhaustive multi-phase assessment to ensure that biodiversity and native vegetation (as well as many other factors) have been at front of mind during the development phase. Due to ongoing requirements for GWMWater to be able to operate and maintain the pipeline efficiently, it is a simple matter to locate the infrastructure adjacent to made roads.

The first phase of assessment was to consider the biodiversity and native vegetation values on each side of all made roads in the project extent. This resulted in a "traffic light" assessment that allowed the project team to select pipeline routes away from the highest environmental values. The second phase of assessment was direct vegetation quality assessment (VQA) of the area likely to be impacted. The functional design also provided the impetus to carry out targeted assessments for particular species including Striped Legless Lizard (SLL) and Golden Sun Moth (GSM).

The amendment also supports the clause in relation to land use. With minimal above ground infrastructure, notably pump stations, air valves and the like, the project has virtually no impact on land use. In relation to habitat and biodiversity, any existing land use will be able to continue. For example, most of the project is being constructed in areas of agricultural production including grazing of improved pasture with a certain cover of native grasses. Once the construction phase passes such areas, the native grasses will recolonise as they have done previously.

Biodiversity values persevering in these areas will be impacted by the project and will be able to recover as per the immediately prior land use. Given the impacts from the project are small in each parcel or paddock, fragmentation of habitat is an unlikely outcome. Cumulative impacts from the project are widespread so local impacts are minimised. The spread of pest plants, animals and pathogens into natural ecosystems is an acknowledged concern and provisions have been made in the project's draft EMF and CEMP to minimise the risk of such adverse outcomes.

<u>Clause 12.01-2S Native vegetation management</u>

The objective of clause 12.01-2S is *to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation*.

The amendment addresses this objective through conditions of the incorporated document, which require GWMWater to avoid and minimise impacts on native vegetation. Flexibility in designing and constructing the pipeline to avoid sensitive areas such as vegetation by realignment and horizontal directional drilling is the primary means of avoiding impacts and means the project can result in a low level of overall impact to vegetation.

The amendment and other supporting documentation support clause 12.01-2S to ensure there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

The project's first assessment of native vegetation allowed the project team to select pipeline routes away from the highest environmental values, selecting alignments and locations to avoid native vegetation and habitat. The functional design enabled the identification of areas where native vegetation impacts might not be avoidable. Construction methods provide the means to minimise impacts. Much of the pipe will be installed by a ploughing methodology rather than trenching. Ploughing the pipe into the ground requires a narrower impact corridor or right of way than trenching. Ploughing is considered to have half the impact of trenching as assessed during a VQA assessment and the outcome on the ground is likely to be better again. The detailed VQA assessments allowed for further identification of particularly high value native vegetation to inform further avoidance and minimisation measures.

Alongside the vegetation assessments, considerable effort has been applied to engaging landholders in the project extent. Understanding the needs of landholders also helped refine the functional design as there was more certainty in terms of which properties needed to be reached and enabled reduction of the number of alignments and their associated impacts.

The project has considered several native vegetation impact scenarios, ranging from the current figure around 33 hectares up to an impact of almost 150 hectares to reach every land parcel in the project extent. The current level of impact is a reasonable compromise between reaching the properties who will benefit from the project and avoiding environmental impacts on the ground. While the impacts are not insignificant, they are spread out over the full project extent and the impacts at any one point in the project extent should not have a long-term detrimental impact on the environmental values of the

landscape. The project will be offsetting its minimised and unavoidable impacts to meet the three-step approach of avoid, minimise and offset. The current NVR report lists the project offset requirement as 10.293 GHUs and five large trees located in Wimmera or Glenelg Hopkins CMA areas. Allowing an addition 0.25 GHUs for “many small impacts” from installation of valves and meters, the total offset is 10.543 GHUs plus five large trees. GWMWater will meet this offset required by drawing offsets from offset sites in the Wimmera CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA region.

Allocations of the offsets to the project will occur before any construction begins on the project. This aspect of the project will be fully documented in the project’s NVOS and NVOP.

Clause 14.01-2S Sustainable agricultural land use

The objective of clause 14.01-2S is *to encourage sustainable agricultural land use*.

The amendment assists in achieving this objective by facilitating the provision of water supply infrastructure to support the region's agricultural industry. A secure water supply would support the development of innovative and sustainable approaches to agricultural and associated rural land use practices.

Northern Grampians Planning Scheme Clause 14.01-2R Agricultural productivity - Wimmera Southern Mallee

The amendment assists in achieving the strategies of this clause by facilitating the provision of water supply infrastructure that would support local industries, activities and infrastructure that complement and enhance the region’s agricultural sector. The project would also facilitate the economic opportunities presented by the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline taking advantage of water security to encourage more intensive agriculture.

Clause 14.02-1S Catchment planning and management

The objective of clause 14.02-1S is *to assist the protection and restoration of catchments, water bodies, groundwater, and the marine environment*.

The amendment supports this objective by facilitating the introduction of a water supply that is expected to reduce reliance on local farm catchment dams. The project would promote the return of water currently intercepted by multiple on-farm dams back to the environment. Less reliance on farm dams due to the provision of a reticulated water supply is expected to restore environmental flows to regional rivers and wetlands, including the Hopkins and Wimmera River catchments.

Clause 15.03-1S Heritage conservation

The objective of clause 15.03-1S is *to ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance*.

The project has been designed to avoid impacts to heritage.

Clause 15.03-2S Aboriginal cultural heritage

The objective of clause 15.03-2S is *to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance*.

The preparation and approval of CHMPs for the project will ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. On ground surveys are discovering currently unregistered Aboriginal cultural heritage and providing information that will assist in future registration (and thus protection) of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Clause 17.01-1S Diversified economy

Northern Grampians Planning Scheme Clause 17.01-1R Diversified economy – Wimmera Southern Mallee

Clause 17.01-1R aims to capitalise on economic development opportunities through building on the region’s assets, particularly agriculture by facilitating the use of secure water supplies to develop the region’s economy.

The project would foster economic development opportunities through building on the region’s assets, particularly agriculture. The amendment facilitates the use of secure water supplies to develop the region’s economy.

Clause 19.03-3S Integrated water management

The objective of clause 19.03-3S is *to sustainably manage water supply, water resources, wastewater, drainage and stormwater through an integrated water management approach*.

The amendment supports this objective by facilitating the introduction of a new water supply that is expected to reduce reliance on the current water supply drawn from local farm catchment dams and promote the return of water currently intercepted by on-farm dams back to the environment as part of an integrated water management approach.

How does the amendment support or implement the Municipal Planning Strategy?

The Ararat, Northern Grampians and Pyrenees Municipal Planning Strategy's (MPS) identify long-term strategic directions for land use and development in their respective municipalities.

The amendment supports and implement the MPS, as described below:

Ararat Planning Scheme Clause 02.03-3 Bushfire

Council's strategic direction for Bushfire is t*o ensure land use and development minimises bushfire risk to residents, property and community infrastructure*.

The amendment has a positive impact on addressing bushfire risk through the potential for increased water supply for firefighting purposes resulting from construction of the project. A secure, good quality water supply is likely to reduce the need for de-stocking in times of drought and provide water to support firefighting.

Ararat Planning Scheme Clause 02.03-4 Natural resource management - Water

Council's strategic direction for Water is *to protect and enhance the quality of both ground and surface waters throughout the municipality and on downstream users*.

The project would promote the return of water currently intercepted by multiple on-farm dams back to the environment.

Ararat Planning Scheme Clause 02.03-7 Economic development - Agriculture

Council's strategic direction for Agriculture is *to maintain and promote a viable and sustainable agricultural industry*.

The amendment assists in achieving this objective by facilitating the provision of water supply infrastructure in support of agricultural production and economic development. A secure water supply would support the expansion or establishment of horticultural activities, emerging agricultural industries as well as innovative and complimentary agricultural production in the Grampians tourism precinct.

Northern Grampians Planning Scheme Clause 02.03-4 Natural resource management

The strategic directions relevant to agriculture include to *support sustainable agriculture and horticultural industries, as the foundation to a strong and prosperous economy and support farming and crop raising as the dominant agricultural activities of the shire and encourage the continued growth of intensive agricultural industry such as viticulture, poultry farming and pig farming*.

The amendment assists in achieving this objective by facilitating the provision of water supply infrastructure in support of agricultural production. A secure water supply would support the expansion or establishment of horticultural activities, emerging agricultural industries as well as innovative and complimentary agricultural production.

Pyrenees Planning Scheme Clause 02.03-3 Natural resource management - Agriculture

The Pyrenees Shire will support agriculture by *encouraging sustainable and diverse agriculture*.

The project will assist in achieving this objective by facilitating the provision of water supply infrastructure which could encourage diversification of the agricultural base and the introduction of more intensive agricultural uses. A secure water supply may encourage the development of agroforestry and facilitate the expansion of the wine industry in the Shire and the development of suitable land for viticulture.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment meets the form and content requirements of the Victoria Planning Provisions.

The amendment uses the SCO to allow land subject to the project to be used and developed in a coordinated and timely manner under one planning control. This allows for a coordinated and consistent approach to the use and development of land for the project. It also allows for the use and development of the project area for the purposes of the project to be appropriately managed in accordance with the controls of the incorporated document, ensuring any potential environmental or amenity impacts are appropriately managed in accordance with approved controls.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

GWMWater has consulted with relevant agency stakeholders, including Ararat Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, First Peoples – State Relations, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA), VicRoads, VicTrack, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Wannon Water and the CFA in the development of the project and preparation of the amendment.

Additionally, GHCMA, WCMA, Ararat Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, Parks Victoria and DELWP have been directly engaged in the identification of predicted environmental and heritage impacts of the project, their management and mitigation.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*?

The amendment will not have any impact of the transport system.

Resource and administrative costs

What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?

The amendment will not place any additional requirements on the resources of the responsible authority or result in additional administrative costs. The amendment reduces the regulatory burden for the relevant councils by regulating the use and development of the project in accordance with the specific control in the incorporated document.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

- Ararat Rural City Council, 59 Vincent Street, Ararat (www.ararat.vic.gov.au)
- Northern Grampians Shire Council, Town Hall, Main Street, Stawell (www.ngshire.vic.gov.au)
- Pyrenees Shire Council, 5 Lawrence Street, Beaufort (www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au).

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting 1800 789 386 to arrange a time to view the amendment documentation.