

## **QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 13 JUNE 2008**

**Murrumbidgee Googong Pipeline** – Ms. Kath Elliott, Senior Manager, Commercial, ACTEW and Stacey Thompson, Communications Manager for the Pipeline Project gave a presentation to Members at our recent executive Meeting.

This is of interest to Queanbeyan residents and businesses, as the pipeline is proposed to pass close to the City through Palerang Shire, and have a major impact on our future water supply.

We are all aware that water supply is in short supply and ACTEW, as water supplier for both ACT and Queanbeyan, needs to look at all options for the future.

In demonstrating how this effects us all, Ms Elliott made the interesting points that 54% of all water usage in Canberra/ Queanbeyan is Household usage, and 39% of this 54% is for garden use.

Both climate change and population growth have impacted on our present water situation, which can be addressed through building additional water supplies , increased water restrictions and diversifying ACT and region's water supply.

The Pipeline project falls into the latter category by taking water from the Murrumbidgee River using a new Pump Station at Angle Crossing and piping it to Googong Dam through Palerang Shire via crossings at Williamsdale Road and Monaro Highway. Approvals would be required from both ACT and NSW Governments for this project to commence. A completion date of mid 2010 is estimated, subject to these approvals.

Ms. Elliott also advised of a proposal to increase the Cotter Dam to 20 times its current size with simultaneous improvement to the Cotter precinct for community recreation. Subject to ACT Government approvals, Dam enlargement would be completed in 2011 prior to spring rains.

ACTEW is also planning the design of a Demonstration Water Purification Plant, though Ms Elliott told Members that the design, if approved for construction, would not at this stage lead to re-cycled water being put into the drinking system.

**NSW Budget to support tourism** - NSW Minister for Tourism Matt Brown announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> June that the Government will invest \$43.7 million in 2008/09 to attract more visitors to NSW through a range of marketing and development initiatives.

Mr Brown said the budget would ensure Sydney and NSW continue to be the number one destinations for visitors both domestically and internationally.

“Recognising the growing importance of the internet in holiday planning, we will invest \$1.3 million on digital marketing for Sydney and NSW globally in 2008/09,” Mr Brown said.

“Tourism NSW’s partnerships with transport operators such as Jetstar, Qantas and CountryLink support the marketing of destinations in regional NSW. They show the benefits of working co-operatively to promote travel to NSW destinations,” Mr Brown said.

The announcement followed the release of a report commissioned by Premier, Morris Iemma, and compiled by the Chairman of Events NSW, John O’Neill, which stated, in part, that the Government’s ‘doesn’t care’ approach had cost it \$3.5 billion in potential tourist revenue since the Olympics. \*

Amongst recommendations of the report were that an international airport should be built at Newcastle with a fast train link to Sydney, national parks should be opened for commercial tourism and Sydney should be rebranded as a global tourist destination.

*\* Sydney Morning Herald - Jano Gibson and Sunanda Creagh  
June 11, 2008.*