

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor; News Producer

6 April 2010

For immediate release

Media Release

SOUTHERN WATER IN CONSULTATION WITH FRANKLIN COMMUNITY

Southern Water today acknowledged the support the Huon Valley community had shown for the Huon Valley Regional Water Scheme. Southern Water's Manager Project Delivery, Mr Stuart McFadzean, said while he appreciated the support the local community had shown for the scheme, he was not yet in a position to release any new information.

"We have been in consultation with the Franklin community, and have taken their concerns into account in finalising the plans for the Huon Valley Regional Water Scheme."

Mr McFadzean thanked the community for their patience during the lengthy negotiation processes.

"We are confident of securing an outcome that will best address the community's concerns.

"This is a significant project that will improve water supply for residents from Ranelagh to Geeveston. As such we are keen to keep the community informed of our plans, listen to any issues they might have, and work towards a mutually beneficial solution. We hope to release news on the pump station and Egg Island crossing issues as soon as we can."

Mr McFadzean said planning for the site of the Franklin pump station was ongoing and an announcement on a location would be made pending the finalisation of commercial negotiations. He also said the pipeline crossing of the Huon River is the subject of an ongoing approvals process.

"The Development Application for laying a pipeline in the canal at Egg Island had been appealed and is currently before the Resource Management Planning and Appeals Tribunal. While it is understood that there is community interest in this proposal, unfortunately Southern Water is unable to discuss the details while it is the subject of legal proceedings."

The Huon Valley Regional Water Scheme will upgrade water supply infrastructure in the region by constructing one bulk water system from the Huon River. The \$25 million dollar project will improve reliability and enhance water quality, pressures and flows, assisting both residential and economic development in the Huon region.

- ▶ Southern Water is holding another information session to keep local residents updated about the Huon Valley Regional Water Scheme. Residents are invited to come along, find out the latest information and talk to project managers about their concerns. Light refreshments will be served.
- ▶ **Huon Valley Regional Water Scheme – Cygnet Information Session**
Date: Thursday, 15 April, 2010
Location: Cygnet Town Hall, 14 Mary Street
Time: 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm

-ENDS-

*For more information/interviews please contact Southern Water's media contact, **Liz Bailes** on **(03) 6233 9667**.*