

November 2010

ABBREVIATIONS

CIV	Capital Investment Value
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Department	Department of Planning
DGRs	Director-General's Requirements
Director-General	Director-General of the Department of Planning
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEC	Endangered Ecological Community
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EP&A Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
EPBC Act	<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
EPI	Environmental Planning Instrument
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
GMC	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
HNCMA	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
I&I	Department of Industry and Investment NSW
LGA	Local Government Area
LPMA	Land and Property Management Authority
MD SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005
Minister	Minister for Planning
NOW	NSW Office of Water
OEMP	Operation Environmental Management Plan
Part 3A	Part 3A of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
PEA	Preliminary Environmental Assessment
PFM	Planning Focus Meeting
PPR	Preferred Project and Submissions Report
Proponent	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
RtS	Response to Submissions
SCA	Sydney Catchment Authority
the Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
UV	Ultraviolet

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1 BACKGROUND	1
1.1 LOCATION	1
1.2 SURROUNDING LAND USE	1
2 PROPOSED PROJECT	3
2.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
2.2 WATER SUPPLY	10
2.3 AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSAL	10
2.4 PROJECT NEED AND JUSTIFICATION	10
3 STATUTORY CONTEXT	12
3.1 MAJOR PROJECT	12
3.2 PERMISSIBILITY	12
3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS	13
3.4 OBJECTS OF THE EP&A ACT	13
3.5 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	14
3.6 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE	14
4 CONSULTATION AND SUBMISSIONS	15
4.1 EXHIBITION	15
4.2 PUBLIC AUTHORITY SUBMISSIONS	15
4.3 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS	16
4.4 PROPONENT'S RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS	16
5 ASSESSMENT	17
5.1 FLORA AND FAUNA	17
5.2 CREEK CROSSINGS	20
5.3 OPERATIONAL WATER QUALITY	22
5.4 LAND USE	24
5.5 HERITAGE	27
5.6 REHABILITATION	29
6 RECOMMENDATION	31
APPENDIX A ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	32
APPENDIX B PROPONENT'S PREFERRED PROJECT AND SUBMISSIONS REPORT	33
APPENDIX C OTHER RELEVANT REPORTS	34
APPENDIX D RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL	35

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goulburn Mulwaree Council has lodged a project application seeking the Minister for Planning's approval for the construction and operation of an 81 kilometre long pipeline and associated infrastructure to transfer up to five megalitres per day of water from Wingecarribee Reservoir to the Goulburn water supply system. The pipeline traverses the districts of Glenquarry, Werai, Sutton Forest, Exeter, Paddys River, Marulan, Towrang, Murrays Flat and Goulburn and the Local Government Areas (LGA's) of Wingecarribee Shire and Goulburn Mulwaree.

The project includes a pumping station at Wingecarribee Reservoir, underground pipeline with stop, air and scour valves and connections to existing raw water infrastructure at Goulburn. The project was developed in response to severe drought conditions experienced by the Goulburn region in recent times and is expected to improve long term water security for the Goulburn region. It has a capital investment value of approximately \$54 million and is expected to generate 60 construction jobs and one operational position. It would take approximately 18 months to construct.

The project environmental assessment was placed on public exhibition between 28 May 2010 and 30 June 2010. Eight submissions from the general public were received during the exhibition period with five of those submissions opposing the proposal and the remaining submissions raising concerns about the proposal. Key issues raised in submissions included:

- assessment of alternative options, route selection and land use
- consultation
- adequacy of the Environmental Assessment and project justification
- rehabilitation
- flora and fauna
- water quality, geomorphology and hydrology
- sustainability

Six submissions were received from public authorities. Submissions received from the Sydney Catchment Authority, Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority, NSW Industry and Investment, the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, NSW Office of Water and the Land and Property Management Authority indicated no objection to the project subject to conditions and/or raised comments for the Department's consideration.

A Preferred Project and Submissions Report, prepared by the Proponent, addressing the issues raised in the submissions on the Project, regarding the construction, operation and proposed alignment of the pipeline, was submitted to the Department. As part of this report the Proponent also prepared a supplementary ecological assessment, aquatic ecology investigation and a supplementary cultural heritage assessment.

The Department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the merits of the project and considers that the project is required to help secure Goulburn's water supply and therefore is in the public interest. The Department also considers that all environmental issues associated with the construction and operation of the pipeline have been addressed and can be managed to acceptable levels, subject to the Proponent's Statement of Commitments and the Department's recommended conditions of approval. The Department, therefore, recommends that the project be approved, subject to conditions.

1 BACKGROUND

The Goulburn Mulwaree region has faced severe drought and water restrictions since 2002. By mid 2007, Goulburn had less than 12 months water supply available. An emergency pipeline from Wingecarribee Reservoir (approximately seven kilometres east of Moss Vale) connecting to the Goulburn water reticulation network was identified, in conjunction with a State Government task force, as the best means of overcoming Goulburn's water supply emergency and providing water security into the future.

This project was adopted as a key component of Goulburn Mulwaree Council's (GMC) Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Study outlining actions for improving long term water security for Goulburn.

The project for which approval is sought is the construction and operation of an 81 kilometre long pipeline and associated infrastructure, which can transfer up to five megalitres of water per day (ML/day) from Wingecarribee Reservoir to the Goulburn water supply system near the Goulburn Water Treatment Plant.

Project infrastructure includes a pumping station, underground pipeline and connections to existing infrastructure. The pumping station would be located at the Wingecarribee Reservoir adjacent to an existing pumping station.

The environmental impacts of this proposal were considered in an Environmental Assessment and Preferred Project and Submissions Report.

1.1 Location

The proposal is located on land within the Wingecarribee and Goulburn Mulwaree council areas. It is located generally south of the Illawarra Highway, adjacent to the Moomba to Sydney gas pipeline easement for most of its length, traversing agricultural, rural, rural residential, private and Crown land. The route passes through the districts of Glenquarry, Werai, Sutton Forest, Exeter, Paddys River, Marulan, Towrang, Murrays Flat and Goulburn.

The project location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Surrounding Land Use

A variety of land uses are present along the proposed pipeline route, including rural residential, small towns/villages, agriculture, State Forest, timber plantations, bushland and Crown Land. The predominant land use is agricultural with grazing as the main activity. There are also existing infrastructure easements along the pipeline route. The pipeline is proposed to be located largely adjacent to the existing infrastructure easements which are maintained as either cleared easements or with vegetative regrowth which is periodically cleared.

The project is located entirely within the Sydney Catchment Authority's Warragamba drinking water catchment and crosses 130 waterways with major waterbodies being the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly Rivers near the proposed route.

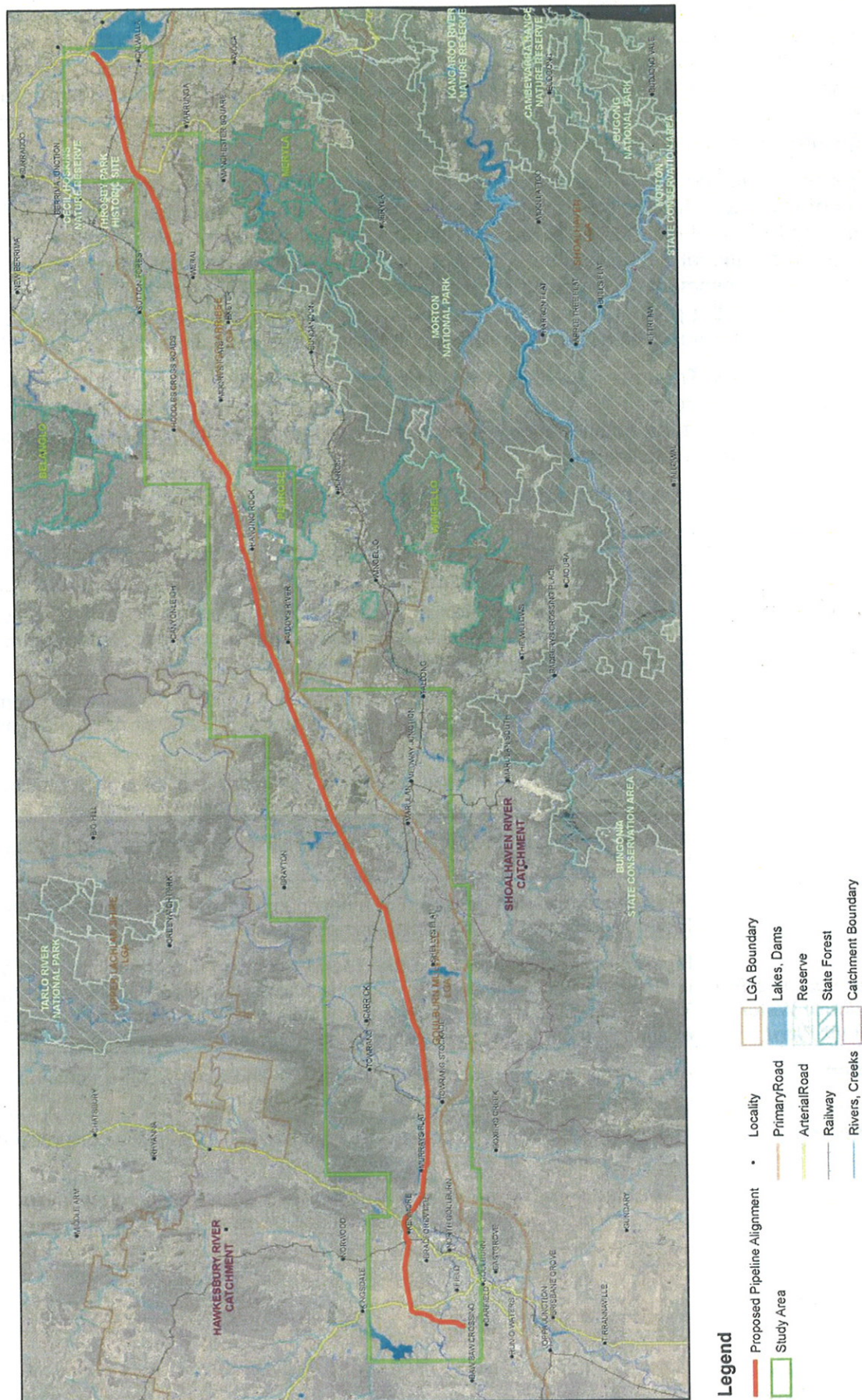


Figure 1: Project Location (Source: GHD 2010, Highlands Source Project)

2 PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 Project Description

Goulburn Mulwaree Council (the Proponent) proposes to construct and operate a water transfer scheme to transfer raw water from the Wingecarribee Reservoir, to Goulburn's water supply network, approximately 81 kilometres to the south west. The pipeline would traverse the Wingecarribee and Goulburn Mulwaree local government areas and would incorporate ancillary infrastructure including an offtake and pumping station, power supply and controls at Wingecarribee Reservoir and a telemetry system.

The pipeline would be constructed to deliver a flow capacity of five megalitres per day (ML/day) of raw water to Goulburn's water supply network with the potential to increase the flow capacity to 7.5 ML/day in the future with the addition of a booster pump system. The transfer of an additional 2.5 ML/day and the booster pump system was not assessed in the Environmental Assessment or Preferred Project and Submissions Report and is therefore not included as part of the project for which approval is sought. Any proposal to increase flow capacity in the future would be subject to separate environmental assessment and approval.

The Goulburn Water Treatment Plant has the capacity to treat 32.5 ML/day but currently operates at approximately 11 ML/day. The Goulburn Water Treatment Plant has enough surplus capacity to treat the additional raw water under the current typical operating capacity requirements and approvals/licences.

The key components of the project are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Key Project Components

<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Description</i>
Project Summary	Construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance of a water pipeline and associated infrastructure linking Wingecarribee Reservoir with the existing Goulburn water supply system.
Pipeline	300-375mm diameter pipeline approximately 81 kilometres extending from Wingecarribee Reservoir near Moss Vale to the Rossi Weir rising main on Clinton St in Goulburn. Located within a permanent six metre easement and lined in a shallow continuous trench to approximately 1.5 – 2 metres below ground level.
Ancillary Infrastructure	Air, scour and stop (divide) valves; marker posts; concrete pits and access tracks.
Pumping Station	The construction and operation of a new pumping station at Wingecarribee Reservoir adjacent to the existing pumping station.
Outlet structure/connection to Goulburn Water Treatment Plant	Pipeline connecting directly to the Rossi Weir rising main on Clinton Street in Goulburn from where water would be transferred to the Goulburn Water Treatment Plant. Once treated, the water would be distributed via the existing water reticulation system around Goulburn
Operation	Able to deliver up to 5ML/daily of raw water and operate on a continuous (24hr per day, 7 days a week) or intermittent basis.
Construction	Trenchless and trenched construction methodologies within a construction corridor of 6m – 20m wide. Associated construction facilities and activities such as temporary laydown areas, site compounds, spoil stockpiles and environmental controls.

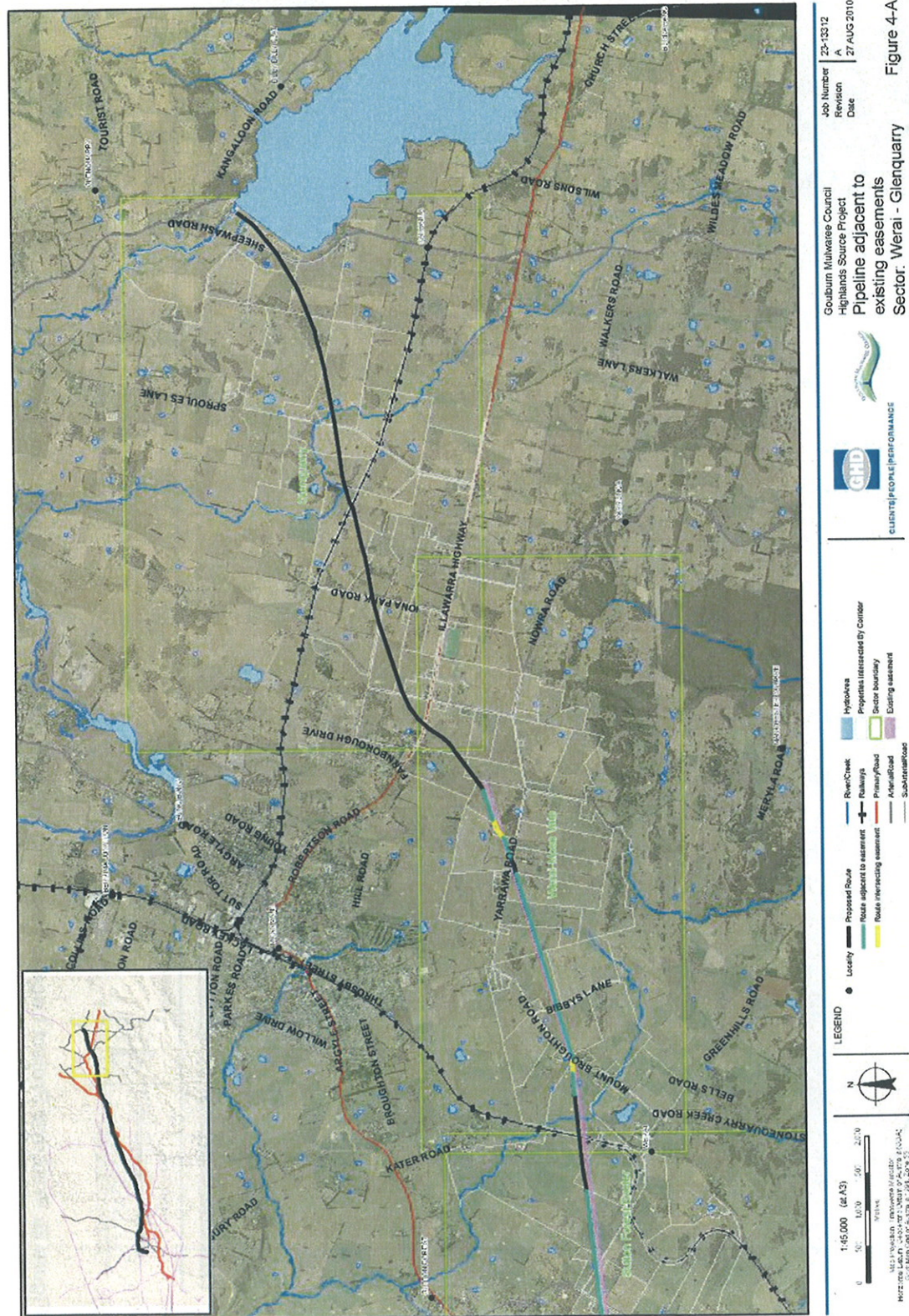
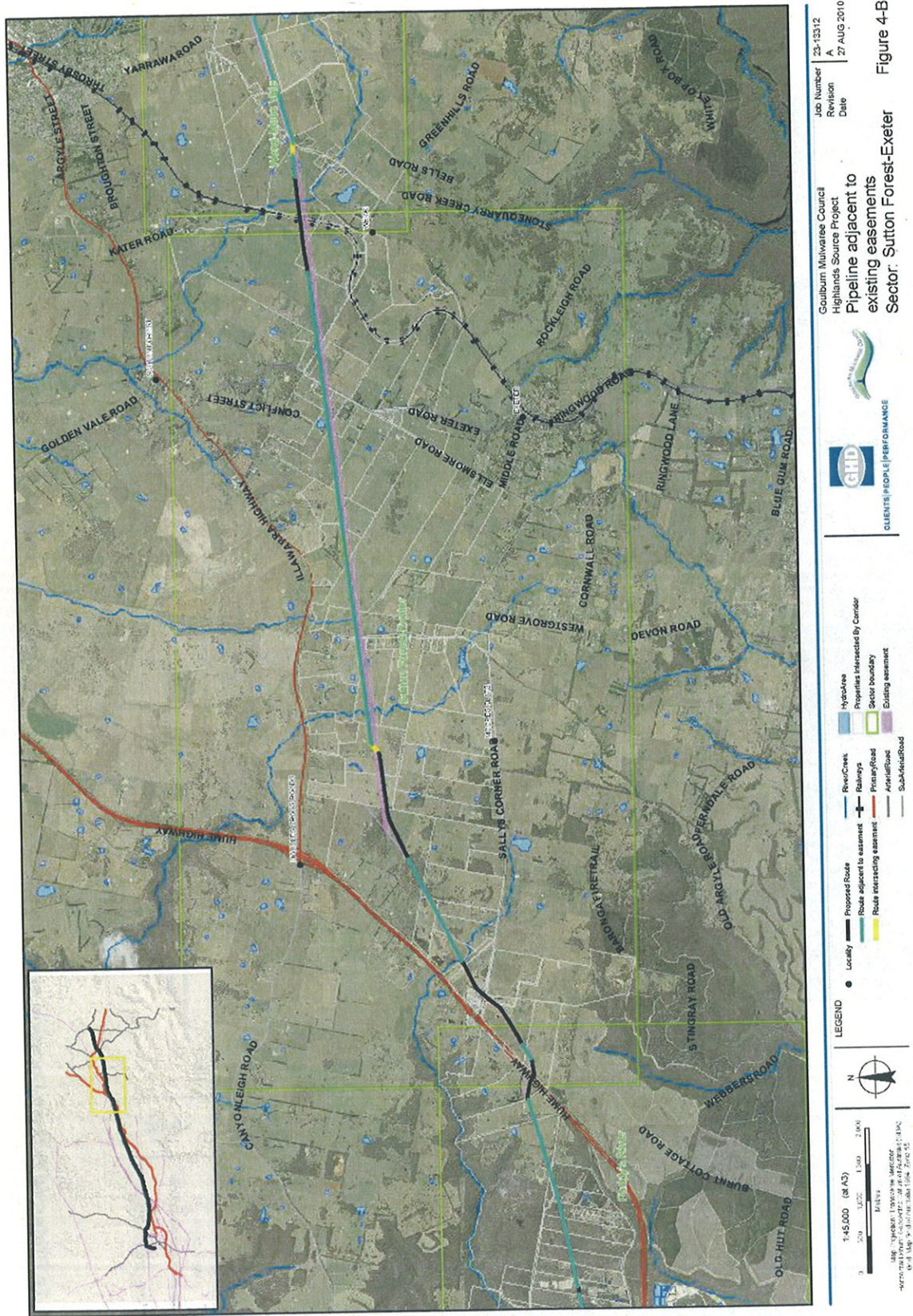
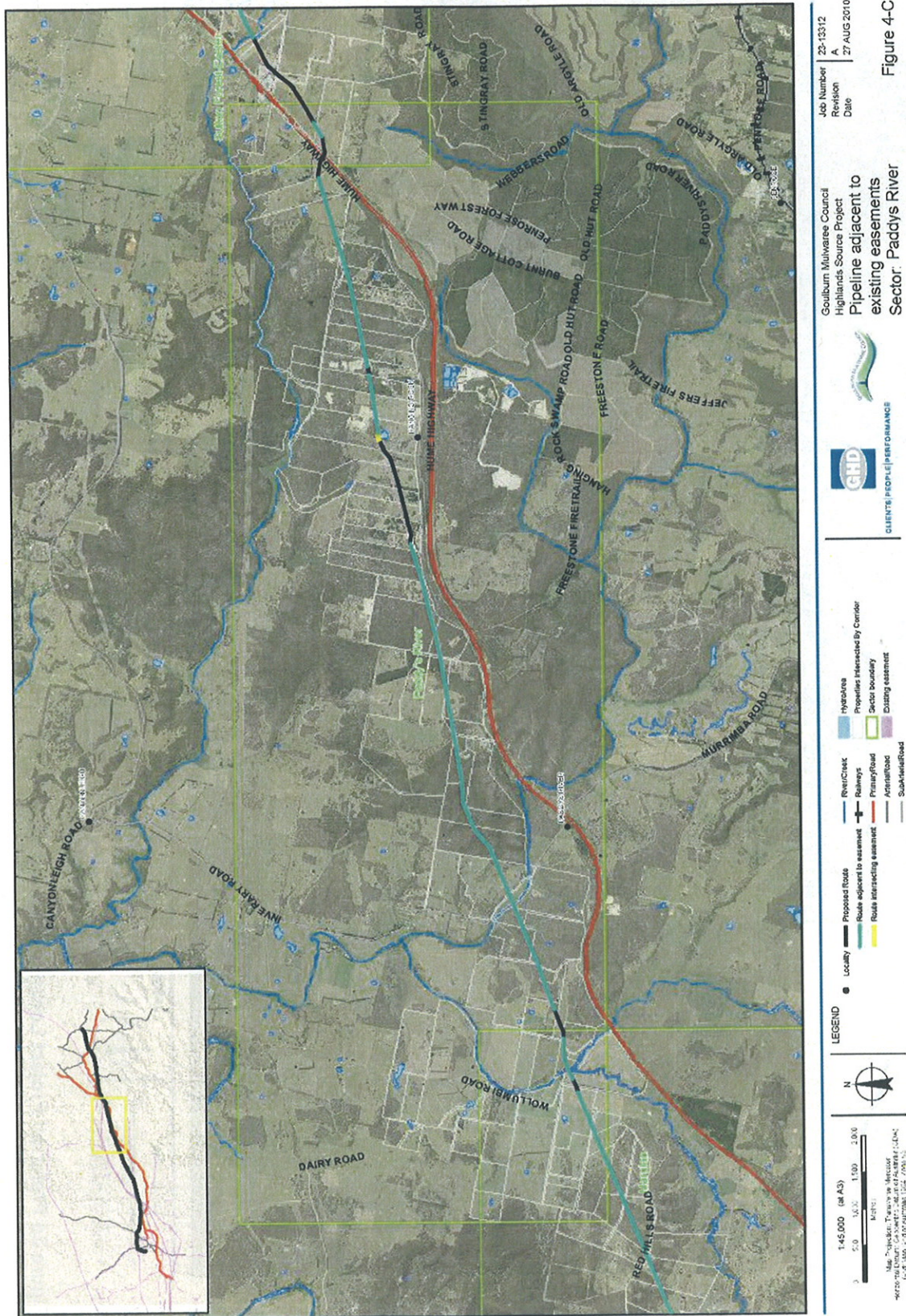


Figure 2a Preferred Project Location showing existing infrastructure easement (source GHD 2010)





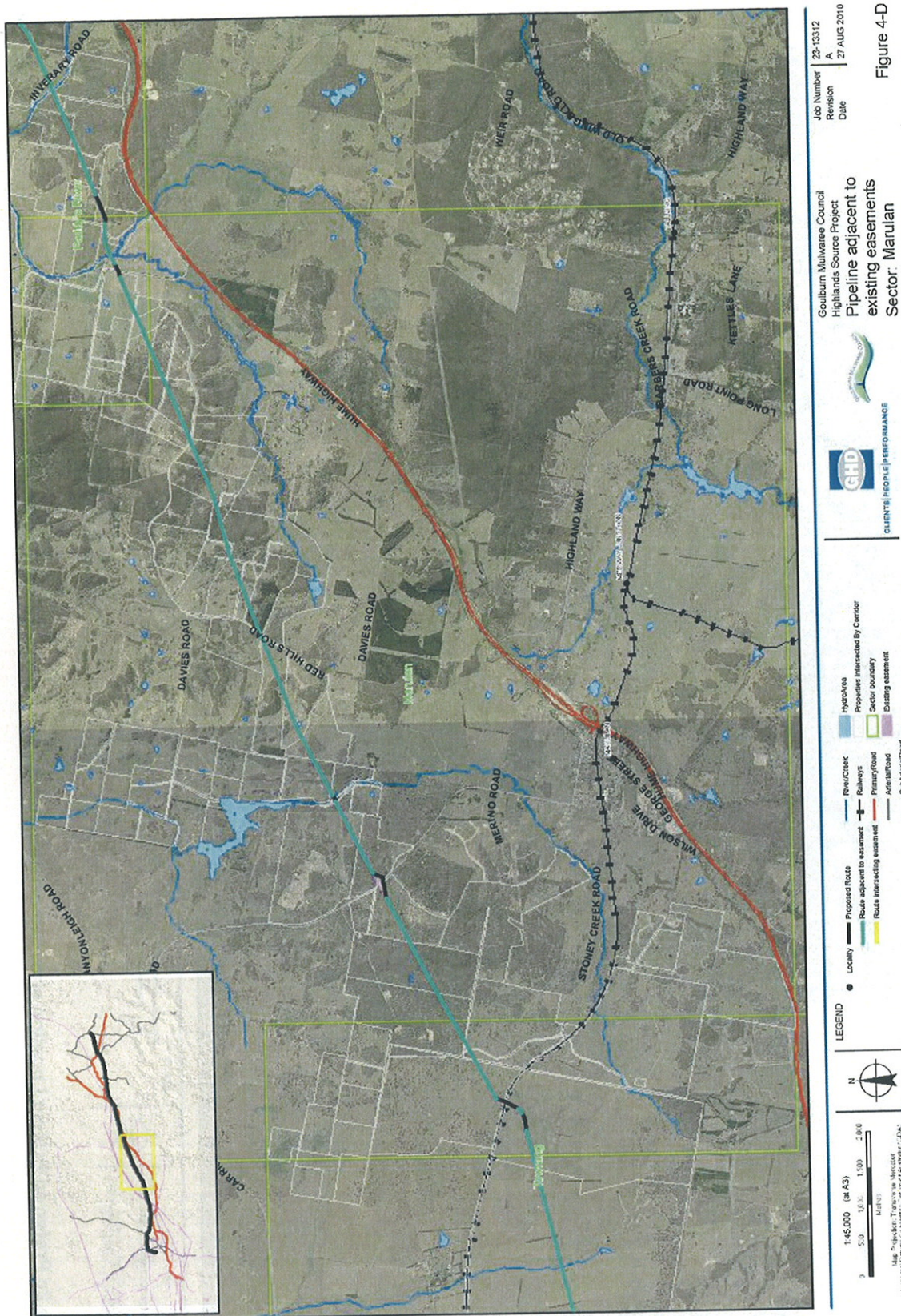


Figure 2d Preferred Project Location showing existing infrastructure easement (source GHD 2010)