



CHICHESTER TRUNK GRAVITY MAIN - LEAD MANAGEMENT



WHAT IS THE CHICHESTER TRUNK GRAVITY MAIN?

The Chichester Trunk Gravity Main (CTGM) is a major 70km pipeline that runs from Chichester Dam to the western outskirts of Newcastle. The CTGM runs through a corridor of land which is mainly owned by Hunter Water Corporation.

Historically the CTGM has been connected with lead joints. Around half of the pipeline has been replaced with steel welded pipe, but the remainder is still generally connected with lead joints.

As with any sources of lead it is advisable to limit access to these areas and be aware that there is lead present along the pipeline.

THE CTGM WATER SUPPLY

The lead jointed pipes do not pose any risk to drinking water supplies. Hunter Water routinely analyses the concentration of lead in drinking water at sample points representative of water supplied to consumers. The testing shows that water transported in the

CTGM fully complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. Water quality data is published every month as part of Hunter Water's Open Board papers, available on the Hunter Water website.

SOIL SAMPLING

A review of Hunter Water land holdings in 2010 identified the CTGM as a site with a high risk of soil contamination and planned for a more detailed investigation to commence in 2011.

In June 2011, Hunter Water undertook sampling to assess the concentration of lead in the soil immediately below and adjacent to the CTGM.

The results of the sampling program have shown that generally the concentration of lead in the soil is above the normal criteria for residential land use. The sampling indicates that the levels drop to below the criteria at generally two metres away from the pipeline.

Property owners adjacent to the pipeline were informed of the soil sampling activity and the results.

Hunter Water has informed the Office of Environment and Heritage about the presence of lead and is working on immediate actions and long term strategies to address any risks to adjoining landholders.

LIVESTOCK WITH ACCESS TO THE PIPELINE

A connection has been found between the lead from the CTGM and lead poisoning in cattle by the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA). Hunter Water is working with the LHPA and Department of Primary Industries to limit the access of livestock to the CTGM and where required, Hunter Water is installing fencing.

ENQUIRIES

If you have any enquiries please contact the Project Manager, Meredith Thomas by telephoning (02) 4979 9694 or via email consultation@hunterwater.com.au