

Detailed designs to be drawn for Bulga Water Supply project as Council looks to grant funding sources

Detailed designs for the Bulga Water Supply project will be undertaken after a preferred route for the transfer water main between Broke and Bulga was decided at last night's ordinary meeting of Singleton Council.

Community consultation, particularly with the Milbrodale community, will also continue while a date for construction is dependent on further grant funding for the estimated \$11.3 million project.

A report to the meeting said Council received a 50 per cent funding contribution for the Bulga Water Supply Scheme for up to \$1.4 million in February 2017, however issues identified in the planning phase had resulted in cost implications for the project.

Community workshops held in September also raised concerns about the cost of the base charge and construction of service lines to dwellings to connect to potable water supply.

Katie Hardy, Council's Manager Water and Sewer, said the outcome from last night's meeting paved the next steps in the future of the project.

Two options for the route for the transfer water main were presented Councillors, with Option A covering 9.7 kilometres between Mount Thorley and Bulga (servicing 108 properties under the entire scheme) and Option B covering 14.8 kilometres between Broke and Bulga (servicing 186 properties under the entire scheme).

"Following last night's resolution, Council staff will now proceed to engage a consultant to undertake detailed designs for the Broke to Bulga option, based on the number properties served and associated economic and other benefits," she said.

"Cost estimates have put the cost of the project at \$11.3 million, including a 30 per cent contingency, and the simple fact is Council cannot afford to fund the project without passing on additional rate increases or taking additional loans.

"That's why the resolution included deferring construction until Council can secure additional grant funding to help cover the considerable cost, and for Council to work with State Government agencies to identify and apply for appropriate grand funding.

"There will also be ongoing community consultation, particularly with the people of Milbrodale, who could connect to the water network under Option B."

ENDS