

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

# Wyangala Dam Wall Raising Project

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### Dam project fast tracked to combat future droughts in the Lachlan Valley region

The \$650 million Wyangala Dam Wall raising project is being fast tracked with the goal for completion within five years.

This project has been declared a Critical State Significant Infrastructure project by the NSW Government and WaterNSW has been tasked to deliver this important project.

Given the impact of the millennium and current drought, we want to make sure this dam is completed quickly so that when rainfall patterns improve we can capture this into the increased storage.

If you're wondering if the dam will ever fill, modelling has shown that the major rain event of 2016 would have filled the larger storage capacity. So it's important we deliver this project to overcome the Lachlan Valley's low levels of water security and reliability in its regulated/licensed irrigation and urban water supply.

Led by WaterNSW with joint funding by the NSW and Federal Governments, we are planning to have 'shovels in the ground' by October this year with early works being the relocation of the Wyangala Waters Caravan Park and major construction to start in late 2021.



**The Wyangala dam project will give us greater certainty regarding our future water supplies and will help build our economic base as a region.**



Phyllis Miller, Forbes Mayor

### Wyangala project development consultant appointed

A Stantec-GHD joint venture has been engaged as engineering and environmental advisors for the project.

They will support WaterNSW with the investigations, environmental assessment, modelling and design for the project.

With deep experience in the investigation, design and development of dams, Stantec-GHD will bring a strong background to supporting development and delivery of raising the Wyangala dam wall.

### Building a lasting legacy from the project

While time frames for raising the dam wall are ambitious, WaterNSW is focused on delivering a positive legacy from the project for the Lachlan Valley regional communities.

WaterNSW will be working with a diverse range of stakeholders across the Lachlan Valley including customers, cultural and environmental groups, local interest groups such as tourism and recreation and business chambers on what they want to see achieved from the project.

A project of this scale and complexity naturally affects different stakeholders in different ways and that's why we'll be working with stakeholders right across the region to achieve the best possible outcomes from implementation of the project.

That includes maximising local benefits and opportunities, a priority on using local contractors, services and workers where possible, understanding who and what is affected by the project and effectively managing these impacts across environmental, cultural, property and public infrastructure.

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engagement



Meeting project  
delivery timeframes



Maximising local  
opportunities



Boosting capacity  
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[www.watarnsw.com.au](http://www.watarnsw.com.au)



This project is all about the future of our town and our region – we can look forward with far more confidence than before.

Bill West, Cowra Mayor



During these difficult times, it is important that we remain focussed on delivering this critical project given its significant benefits for the Lachlan Valley region, so we'll be using new tools and approaches to keep the community updated and informed.

David Hogan, Head of Engagement, WaterNSW



### COVID-19 challenges

Our immediate challenge is how we deal with COVID-19 and keep the community up to date. WaterNSW prides itself on being able to show up and have important conversations with the community face to face. While we can't do this right now, we are using other ways to get information to you including our website, social media, local newspapers and radio.



### NEW WAYS OF PLANNING, ENGAGING, DELIVERING

Fast tracking a project of this scale demands an entirely different way of planning, engaging and delivering such a critical piece of NSW infrastructure. It requires the Wyangala project team to focus on:

**Collaboration**  
by working together to deliver on commitments

**Innovation to deliver**  
balanced outcomes rather than just process

**Concurrent Activities** that are maximised to achieve critical delivery objectives

**Project Delivery Partners** working alongside WaterNSW as one team



### WILL THE NEW DAM EVER FILL?

Modelling has shown the major rain event of 2016 would have filled the larger storage capacity. We need this dam to be completed quickly so that when rainfall does improve we can capture this into the increased storage.



While we expect the dam to fill, we need to carefully balance this with the need for continued environmental flows and water downstream of the dam. That highlights the importance of conducting environmental investigations.

Check out the FAQs on our website, and if you have any questions please email [wyangaladamproject@waternsw.com.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@waternsw.com.au)



Environmental planning



Construction of new Wyangala Waters Caravan Park



Inundation assessments



Cultural heritage assessments

### Keep in touch

@ Email [wyangaladamproject@waternsw.com.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@waternsw.com.au)

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