

# Wyangala Dam Wall Raising

## Project Update

July 2022



NSW Project Director Ian Payne and Wyangala Water Treatment Plant Project Manager Ray Anderson provide Cootamundra MP Steph Cooke and Cowra Deputy Mayor Cr Judi Smith the lowdown on works ahead.

## New water treatment plants provides flow-on effects for community and regional economy

**Work to deliver up to 800,000 litres of clean drinking water every day has started at the new \$5.1 million Wyangala Water Treatment Plant. Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke said the treatment plant was a great step forward for the community and regional economy.**

“Turning on the tap to fill your glass with clean, treated water is something millions of Australians do every minute of every day,” Ms Cooke said.

“I’m pleased Wyangala village will finally have infrastructure in place that will enable them to do the same.

“It’s fantastic this project has already injected \$820,000 into the local economy which means more money in the till for regional business owners.”

Ms Cooke said the project’s principal contractor, Enviropacific Services, aimed to employ one-third of its workforce locally.

“Seventeen local businesses have already been engaged, including companies providing fabrication, electrical installation, civil engineering, earthworks and surveying services.”

**“It’s fantastic this project has already injected \$820,000 into the local economy.”**

Member for Cootamundra, Steph Cooke

Cowra Mayor Bill West welcomed the start of construction.

“The current water treatment plant at Wyangala is no longer fit for purpose,” he said. “That’s why we’ve been pushing to replace the ageing infrastructure to ensure locals have access to a reliable stream of clean, drinkable water.

“It’s great to see workers on site because it means we’re one step closer to improving the quality of the water for the town and Reflections Holiday Park. It’s a major win for Wyangala.”

Federal Member for Riverina Michael McCormack said the Wyangala Water Treatment Plant would help unlock the region’s potential.

“The wonderful Wyangala community deserves the best possible water infrastructure and we’re delivering just that,” Mr McCormack said.

Then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Barnaby Joyce said residents would have safe, drinkable running water by early next year.

“Everyone deserves access to good quality drinking water,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

“That’s why I’ve been working with the NSW Government to get shovels in the ground so we can get on with the job of building a more modern, efficient and reliable water treatment plant that will provide clean potable water to residents.

“For the first time, treated drinking water will also be piped to the Reflections Holiday Park unlocking the economic potential of Wyangala as a tourism destination.”

NSW Minister for Lands and Water Kevin Anderson said the project would be a game changer for the town’s residents.

“The new water treatment plant will be almost double the size of the current plant which will enable residents and visitors to have better access to clean drinking water,” Mr Anderson said.

“The new infrastructure will make Wyangala an even better place to live, work and visit. It’s great news for local businesses.”

The plant will be owned and operated by Cowra Shire Council when work is finished in early 2023.



**For more info visit our WTP webpage to read about our local business engagement**



On the road to more clean drinking water and economic opportunities.



Field studies and meetings with key stakeholders throughout the Lachlan River catchment continue to provide insight and information for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project. This edition of the newsletter outlines some of the important discussions and work to ultimately provide the 100,000 residents living and working across the 90,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the Lachlan region with improved water security and reliability

## Understanding our cultural heritage begins with listening

Consultation with our project's 17 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) reached a milestone in April with the extended first stage of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

The ACHAR –part of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) –will help ensure the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project will look to conserve places of cultural heritage significance.

The principles and processes also draw on the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (also known as The Burra Charter).

Listening to and working with our Aboriginal communities throughout the catchment lies at the core of the report's success.

And the decision to extend consultation for the draft ACHAR from the required 28 days to six weeks underlined the importance Water Infrastructure placed on the voice of our First Nations.

So too did the inclusion of a Cultural Values Assessment (CVA), a non-mandatory report additional to the ACHAR to better understand how changes in the Lachlan River's flows could affect the Aboriginal cultural landscape and values.

The CVA has led to valuable conversations with Aboriginal stakeholders downstream and upstream, and provided a more comprehensive approach to Aboriginal heritage and connections to the Lachlan Valley.

Discussions have included:

- Access to and along waterways
- Water quality
- Existing recreational areas
- Areas of cultural sensitivity and Aboriginal sacred places
- Fishing locations

Water Infrastructure NSW acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Progress of the EIS specialist studies

The project team has continued to progress field surveys and geotechnical investigations throughout early 2022.

Fauna experts were particularly focused on potential habitats for the Striped Legless Lizard and Golden Sun Moth.

But initial feedback from field studies in April and May showed no signs of these species or their habitats, indicating their presence is unlikely. The reports will be finalised as part of the EIS process.

The team is back in the field looking at the Key's Matchstick grasshopper, and further field studies are planned for other species including koalas and hang gliders.

Study methods for various animal habitats include:

- Field walkover of the study area
- Vegetation mapping and targeted flora searches
- Diurnal bird surveys
- Nest tree searches
- Mapping of hollow-bearing trees and potential threatened species habitats using the Collector digital tool on a personal device, GPS, camera and note-taking
- Koala scat searches
- Setting of remote cameras
- Nocturnal spotlighting surveys
- Call playback/recording (owls, bush stone curlew).



Project team members arrive by boat to carry out field studies, including the set-up of remote cameras to review the habits of koalas and nocturnal animals.





Safety first: Audits identify road safety upgrades on Darbys Falls Road in Cowra.

## Safety remains our priority

A team of independent experts has conducted a road safety audit in and around Wyangala and Cowra to study the project's proposed construction routes for heavy vehicles moving materials and machinery.

The investigations in February and March were completed in line with Transport for NSW's Guidelines for Road Safety Audit Practices and will be used to identify where road safety upgrades are required prior to construction of the dam wall.

The team investigated day and night to study varying conditions at:

- Fitzroy Street
- Campbell Street
- Darbys Falls Road (entire length)
- Trout Farm Road
- Wyangala Road
- First Avenue
- Frogmore Road (part length)
- Intersection of Reg Hailstone Way and Wyangala Road

(Note: Reg Hailstone Way does not form part of the road safety audit because it is not a proposed haulage route but may be used by light vehicles)

- The existing (disused) bridge over the Lachlan River (west of the dam wall and around Trout Farm/Wyangala Road).

The audit will inform our Traffic and Transport Study for the Environmental Impact Statement.

## Rock-solid technology informing design

Our project team continues to carry out geotechnical investigations to inform design and planning for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project.

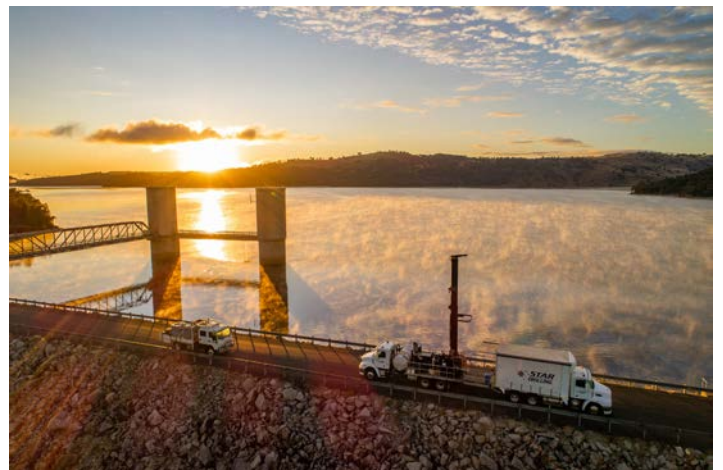
In early May, the sonic drill rig took samples from the crest of the dam. In coming months, geotechnical investigations are scheduled to study the rock quarry and clay borrow sites.

These tests improve our knowledge of ground conditions around the project area, increasing certainty and reducing risk. It also provides better indications of project costs.

### Type of geotech investigations

- Costeans – a form of trench excavation that allows us to examine different geological features of the subsurface across the project area.
- Boreholes – help us find gaps in our knowledge by confirming ground conditions where required. This is being undertaken around the proposed raised dam wall, the saddle dam at the entry to Wyangala Waters Holiday Park, and the rock quarry east of the spillway.
- Sonic boreholes – made on the existing dam structure using high-frequency drilling that provides us with more information about the existing dam structure, including its foundational depth.

These investigations are crucial to informing our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Geotechnical drilling at Wyangala Dam allows the project team to best inform design and planning. (The dam's road is closed during this testing).



## Clay core results help mould thinking of soil suitability

Expert local businesses have been supporting soil studies in and around Wyangala Dam.

These investigations use test pits and augured bores to help determine whether the ground is suitable for the project to construct the central clay core of the raised dam.

The clay needs particular specifications to stabilise the dam structure when raised. These investigations also seek to confirm the depth and volume of suitable material available.

Test pits involve the excavation of a pit measuring up to three metres deep, two metres wide and three metres long. This allows data to be collected over a relatively large area. Augured boreholes find information in a smaller, more targeted area.

Local businesses supporting this work to date: TCN Earthmoving from Blayney; Macquarie Geotechnical; Ryans Drilling and Civil (RDC); and Hibbo Hire from Bathurst.



Pictured right and below: Tests of rock and soil help determine suitability for the proposed raised dam wall.





# Top teams help overcome construction challenges



The new raised dam wall will benefit from the thinking of two highly experienced companies.

Building the dam wall safely and maintaining the water supply during construction presents its own challenges.

To ensure the best thinking, we're using an Alliance Partnership contract model that enables the project team to bring in expertise from across NSW, Australia and around the world.

The Alliance model has allowed us to shortlist two highly experienced companies during the tendering process and work with both during design and planning.

It means we can test two different designs and two different approaches from two respected proponents in the field to see which methodology best fits the project.

This ensures the best thinking across design and construction techniques are adopted by the project. It assists in how we address issues and how we mitigate them.

Minister for Water Kevin Anderson recently announced the extension of the Alliance Partnership agreement to the Dungowan Dam and Pipeline project.

He said lessons learned from the delivery of the Dungowan project – closer to the construction stage than Wyangala – would ultimately provide greater efficiency in how both projects were delivered.

## Trusted Alliance partners

Based on their strong regional experience and expertise in dam projects and major complex infrastructure, **Acciona** and **Seymour White** have been shortlisted as the two prospective design and construction partners for the main works contract.

Both partners will continue to consider safety and efficiency paramount while minimising impacts for water users.



## Invite us to your next meeting

Are you part of a group or organisation that would like a project presentation? Email us [wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au) and we are more than happy to arrange an in-person or online presentation with representatives from our team.

## Stay in touch and up-to-date

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team:



Call 1800 735 822



For general enquiries email [wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au)



Visit our website [dpie.nsw.gov.au/wyangala-dam](https://dpie.nsw.gov.au/wyangala-dam)




To join the Community Facebook Group visit [Wyangala Dam Wall Raising Project](#)





Follow us on Twitter [@NSWDPIE\\_Water](https://twitter.com/NSWDPIE_Water)

# Wyangala Dam Wall Raising Community Dashboard

July 2022




Improving long term water security and drought resilience in the Lachlan Valley

<p>80 Community events</p>  <p>627 * attendees</p>	 <p>134 Stakeholder briefings</p>	 <p>104 Landowner meetings</p>
---	--	---


\* Cumulative from August 2020-present

Local community sentiment


87% awareness    68% support




 <p>17 Registered Aboriginal Parties</p>	 <p>368 Local businesses registered</p>	 <p>104 Local businesses engaged</p>
--	---	--



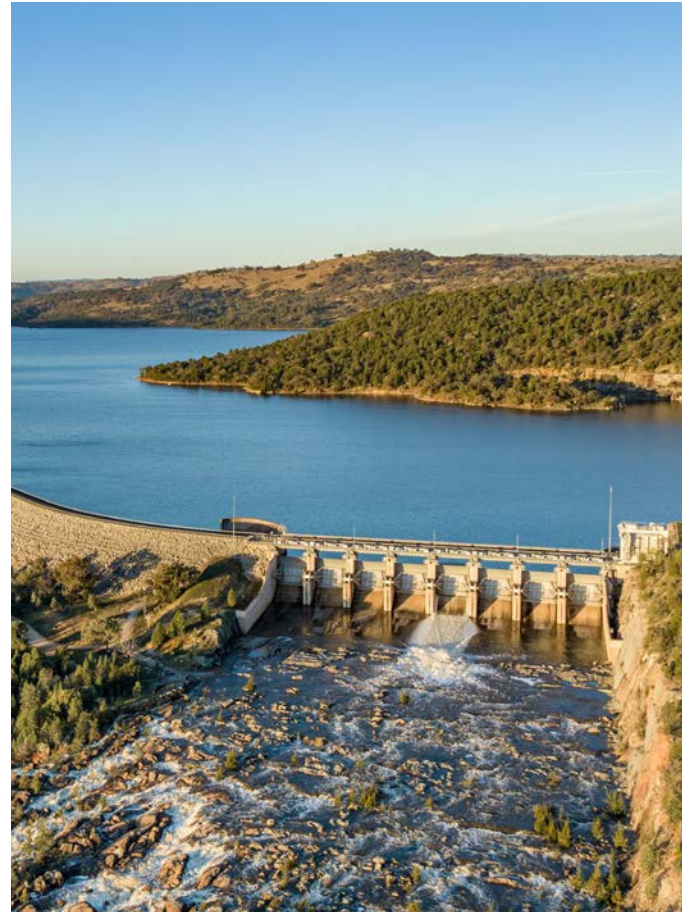
665 Emails in    41,843 Emails out






242 Calls in    684 Calls out



360 Page followers  
15,069 Page reach    1,648 Page visits



 <p>673 Media stories</p>	 <p>41,670 Webpage views</p>	 <p>49 Complaints received to date</p>
--	---	---

Unless stated otherwise, all stats are cumulative totals from January 2020 and are updated at the end of each month.

## What's happening in July

- We're preparing for our spring field studies.
- We're preparing for our next round of geotechnical investigations around Wyangala Dam.
- We're continuing construction works on the new Wyangala Water Treatment Plant.
- Meetings with key stakeholders are ongoing.