

# Project update

August/September 2021



### **Water Infrastructure NSW is reviewing infrastructure and non-infrastructure options from the draft Regional Water Strategy Lachlan Valley in finalising the business case for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project.**

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said consideration of options to drought-proof the Lachlan Valley is a requirement of planning for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project.

Minister Pavey said some of these measures could be a pipe network or greater use of groundwater. “It is a requirement of a final business case to look at other options that are available.”

“It is important that we have projects that stack up financially, are respectful of taxpayer dollars and deliver the best possible outcome for communities and businesses. We need to ensure regional NSW is more resilient and with more droughts expected and bigger storm events, providing water security means being able to store water when it is available.”

“For NSW Government major infrastructure project final business cases, there is a requirement to consider options with the purpose of confirming or update elements of earlier options analysis. This is normal practice to ensure Government projects provide value for money, are affordable and can be delivered.”

In the time since the dam’s strategic business case, the draft Lachlan Valley Regional Water Strategy has been developed. Throughout 2020, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment sought community and stakeholder feedback on the draft Strategy including infrastructure and non-infrastructure options for improving water security and management in the Lachlan Valley.

“As part of finalising the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project’s final business case, Water Infrastructure NSW is considering options from this draft Strategy” said Minister Pavey.

The Minister said when it comes to big infrastructure, it can take as long to plan design and arrange it as it does for the actual construction.

“We are committed to improving water security, drought resilience and flood attenuation for the Lachlan Valley.”



Photo courtesy of Farmpix Photography

Wyangala Dam controlled release 27 July 2021

For more information on the draft Lachlan Regional Water Strategy, visit

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/regional-water-strategies/public-exhibition/previously/lachlan](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/regional-water-strategies/public-exhibition/previously/lachlan)

## Project moves into new Government agency

The NSW Government recently established Water Infrastructure NSW, which sits within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. This agency is charged with delivering critical water infrastructure projects in NSW and providing a coordinated and unified infrastructure delivery approach across several NSW water agencies.

The Government has established similar infrastructure agencies in education and health, which have been operating successfully over several years.

On 1 July this year, the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project transitioned to Water Infrastructure NSW. WaterNSW continues to work with the project team as the owner and operator of Wyangala Dam.

## Inundation maps released

In June, the project team provided inundation maps for the proposed 10m Full Supply Level increase for the dam to landowners and van owners at Wyangala Waters and Grabine Lakeside holiday parks.

The project team is meeting with landowners who would like more information to discuss the inundation information provided to them.

In July, the project team held six community information webinars exclusively for Wyangala Waters and Grabine Lakeside holiday park van owners. These webinars were held to discuss and address holiday van owner questions about the recently released inundation impacts. Key themes raised include inundation, relocation, environmental and construction impacts, timing and work opportunities.

## Community engagement

This quarter has continued to be busy and ongoing despite current COVID-19 restrictions, with the project team hosting:

- community webinars providing updates on the project
- local business webinars
- van owner information webinars
- stakeholder briefings
- impacted landowner meetings
- in-person community information sessions

Key themes raised during community and local business sessions included but were not limited to, project progress and development, flood and hydrology modelling, updated inundation mapping and impact on project timeframes, alternate water security solutions, water licenses, water sharing plans, and compliance with the Murray Darling Basin Plan along with local businesses and employment opportunities.

## Wyangala Water Treatment Plant procurement gets underway

To deliver the new water treatment plant Enviroacific Services aims to source at least one-third of its workforce from the local community and engage more than 10 local businesses.

Key construction areas for local businesses include fabrication, electrical installation, civil engineering, civil and earthworks and geotechnical surveying

*“With the construction of the water treatment plant due to start in late 2021, this month we are reaching out to local businesses for services.*

*Now is the time to sign up to the local business register if you are interested in getting involved. Local business procurement will happen on a rolling basis as key project milestones are reached and services are required.”*

**Shane Walsh,  
Project Manager, Enviroacific Services**



Photo courtesy of Farmpix Photography

**Wyangala Dam controlled release 27 July 2021**

# Community Dashboard

AUGUST 2021



ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

**Local community sentiment**  
 87% awareness  
 68% support

**63** Community events  
 attendees **597**

**Registered Aboriginal Parties** **15**

**100** Stakeholder briefings

**Landowner meetings** **110**

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

**332** Local businesses registered

**75** Local businesses engaged

CONNECTING WITH YOU

**385** Emails in  
**12,216** Emails out

**342** Calls in  
**400** Calls out

**546** Media stories

**847** group members  
**35** posts  
**97** comments  
**246** reactions

**26,895** Webpage views

**Complaints received to date** **41**

All stats are cumulative totals and updated at the end of each month

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

- Launch of the first business newsletter to promote the start of tendering for the new water treatment plant in Wyangala.
- Meetings with landowners about inundation maps and project progress.
- Ongoing meetings with local councils and key stakeholders.

# What's coming up?

## Business newsletter

In **September**, the project team will issue our first local business newsletter to keep you informed of opportunities to work on the new water treatment plant at Wyangala which is the project's early work package.

## Business webinars

Business information webinars will be held in **September**, ahead of work starting on the Wyangala Water Treatment Plant.

Register to attend a session [here](#) or call 1800 735 822.

### Business information webinars (1.5 hours)

**Tuesday 21 September** 5:30pm - 7pm

**Thursday 23 September** 11:30am - 1:00pm

**Monday 27 September** 5:30pm - 7pm

## Community information webinars

In late **October** and **November**, the project team will host community information webinars to provide an update on the project and answer questions.

We will also host webinars that provide an Introduction to the project - these sessions are an opportunity to bring you up to speed on the project, ahead of attending a Project Update session.

Review the schedule and register to attend a session.

### Introduction to project (1 hour)

**Friday 22 October** 12noon - 1:00pm

**Monday 1 November** 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Click [here](#) to register

### Project update (45 mins)

**Monday 25 October** 5:30pm - 6:15pm

**Thursday 28 October** 12noon - 12:45pm

**Tuesday 2 November** 12noon - 12:45pm

**Thursday 4 November** 5:30pm - 6:15pm

Click [here](#) to register

## Stay in touch and up-to-date



Subscribe and stay up to date on project news, milestones and events. Email your contact details to [wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au) with 'Subscribe for Updates' as the subject heading.



If you are a business who would like to register with the project, email us your business details including a short description of your services.



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.

## Our next newsletter will be out before the end of the year, but you can always reach us via:



1800 735 822



[wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au)

If you have any feedback on our newsletter, or would like to see us include an article on a particular topic please email your feedback to: [wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wyangaladamproject@dpie.nsw.gov.au)