

Wilcannia Weir Initiatives

Wilcannia Weir Project Purpose

A replacement weir is being designed and constructed to provide long-term town water supplies to preserve and enhance the social, economic and environmental benefits for Wilcannia, its people and its surrounds.



WaterNSW consultation sessions in Wilcannia

Wilcannia Weir Community Initiatives

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is supporting WaterNSW to develop and implement a holistic and meaningful approach to the participation and engagement of Wilcannia community, through the development of employment, training, and arts initiatives.

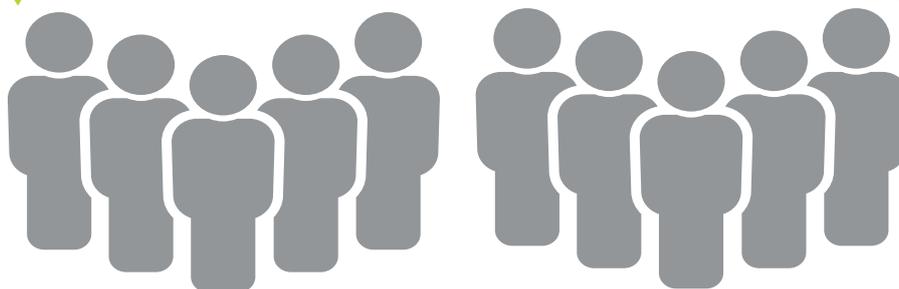
As part of this WaterNSW and DPIE acknowledge that Wilcannia has a large Aboriginal community, within the traditional tribal home of the Barkindji people who sustain a continuing spiritual relationship to the river (Barkindji meaning "people of the river").

Feedback from the Community

"Working with WaterNSW and the Wilcannia community was a highlight of 2019, and I'm excited about not only helping to document the construction of this important infrastructure project, but also to work with the local content creators to preserve the stories from within the community."
Jason King, Broken Hill Productions

"WaterNSW involvement with key stakeholders in the Wilcannia weir project has been successful by being transparent with the processes. Community engagement has been strongly encouraged through the planned meetings at various sites around the town – the Mission, the Mallee, community oval, community hall and the golf club enabling access to all who want to have a say or just be kept informed of what has been done and what is being done in the future."
Owen Whyman

"I would like to say that the interaction between the WaterNSW team and the Community has been very positive and informative having each visit of the team, leaving the community better informed. Coloured charts being on display, newsletters available, timeline snap shots keeping the community well informed."
Patrick Cunningham - Wilcannia Roadhouse & Grahams Motel



Community Focus: Training and Skills Opportunities

As part of our commitment to the Aboriginal Participation in Construction (APIC) policy WaterNSW is providing training opportunities for the community. The skills developed in the program can build local capacity to improve future opportunities on other projects and industries in the region.

This approach is designed to meet community needs and aspirations, inclusive of a range of cross-cultural requirements and considerations to maximise participation and engagement.

Training Timeline

	SEPTEMBER 2020	OCTOBER 2020	NOVEMBER 2020	DECEMBER 2020	JANUARY 2021	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021	MAY 2021	JUNE 2021
STEP ONE REDiE Skills audit (2 weeks)	REDiE Skills Audit									
STEP TWO TAFE Fit for Work Program Course (2 weeks)		Fit for Work Group #1 (15 participants)			Fit for Work Group #2 and #3 (30 participants)					
STEP THREE TAFE Statement of Attainment Accredited Cert 1 and 2 Construction (8 weeks each)			Cert 1 Construction (15 participants)			Cert 2 Construction (15 participants)				
TAFE Accredited Cert 2 Tourism Part 1 and 2 (8 weeks each)						TAFE Cert Tourism Part 1 of 2 (15 participants)			TAFE Cert Tourism Part 2 of 2 (15 participants)	
TAFE Accredited Cert 2 Hospitality Part 1 and 2						TAFE Cert Hospitality Part 1 of 2 (15 participants)			TAFE Cert Hospitality Part 2 of 2 (15 participants)	

Training in Construction, Tourism and Hospitality

The WaterNSW Wilcannia Weir project team are working together with TAFE NSW, Regional Enterprise Development Institute (REDiE) and Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) to package a training program to commence with Wilcannia community in October 2020. A short 'Fit for Work' course will kick off the training to prepare participants for the subsequent longer training courses in construction, tourism and hospitality.

Providing on ground support services with training

To provide the support pivotal to successful participation and realisation of outcomes, the following are included as part of the above timelines:

- Extra support services to implement courses for students including a dedicated education support officer, catering and provision of uniforms.
- A 'Fit for Work' program to assist people to build the skills needed to enter the 8-week training programs.
- Training delivered in 8 week-long terms so that students graduate after each stage, and achievement is acknowledged.
- TAFE NSW and REDiE working in partnership to maximise participation with a skills audit, provision of training facilities and coordination of support services.



Community Focus: Arts and Video Production Initiatives

WaterNSW has been liaising with the local schools and the youth drop in centre by providing information and resources to young people, including how it will work and where it will be located. The team are also gathering information to better understand what the weir means to their community, and how they would like to be involved.

School and Art project

The aim of this initiative is to celebrate cultural connections to the river, through representations and line drawings, as part of meaningful participation.

Art workshops facilitated by local community artists to mentor the school children and develop images, with the final drawings to be digitised for illustration on the new weir.

These workshops will continue when COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are lifted.



Bama Johnson 2020



WaterNSW being interviewed at River Radio

Video Production project

This is aimed at documenting the project, inclusive of storytelling videos over the course of the construction, promoting cultural connection to the river, training programs, and the community interactions.

Another key aspect of this initiative is working closely with the Wilcannia community to train and mentor young people in aspects of digital media planning, production and postproduction.

This will be achieved through working with the local River Radio Station, Wilcannia Central School, and other community organisations such as the Women's Safe House and community networks such as WINGS Drop in Centre.

Wilcannia River Radio staff are also to participate in the documentation of the project for potential use as a case study for other agencies



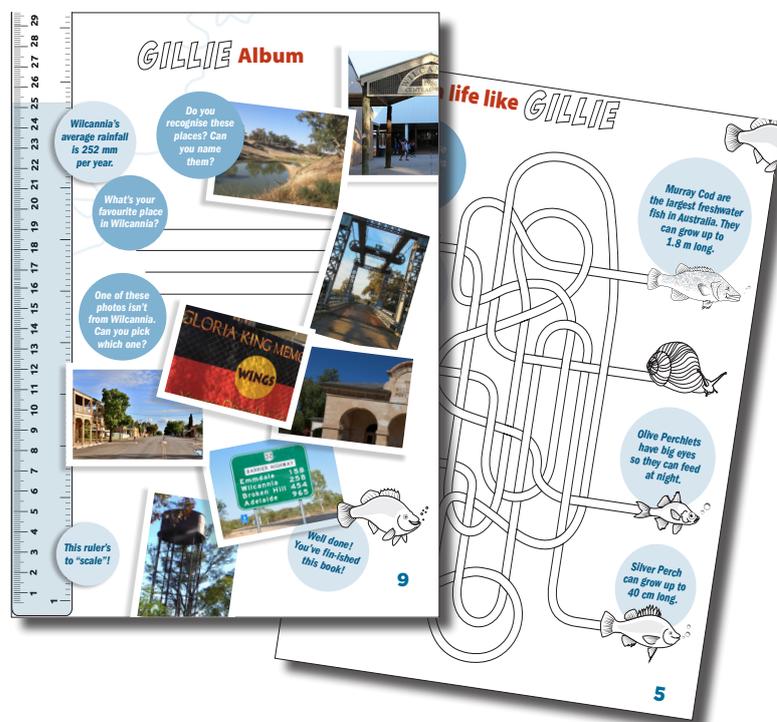
Local training in video production

Community Focus: Next Generation

School activity booklet

Further to the art project, an activity book has been developed for use in the schools and drop in centres, to keep the schools engaged and thinking about the project (while under COVID-19 restrictions). WaterNSW has made this booklet to provide a sense of community connection and interaction with the project including:

- To maintain established connection with young people and schools
- To embed content which links to all stages of the NSW syllabus, where possible
- To acknowledge connection to country and include Barkindji language where appropriate
- To include 'Gillie' the Golden Perch from the Darling River, as a familiar character who journeys through the activity book with them
- To strengthen awareness of the Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project.



The book provides educational information on local river life and ecology and includes a double-sided lift out featuring a water cycle game and colouring-in river scene. It will be distributed to 200 students in Wilcannia Central School, St Therese's Catholic school and WINGS drop in centre and another 50 will be provided to other key community services.

Keep in touch

- ☎ Call us on **1300 662 077**
- @ Email Us at **WilcanniaWeir@waternsw.com.au**
- 📍 Visit us at **waternsw.com.au**
- 🐦 Follow us on Twitter **@WaterNSW**



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Water and the Environment**



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