

Upper Mole River Dam

October 2019



A new rockfill dam at Upper Mole River will deliver improved water security and environmental benefits for NSW and QLD.

Background

WaterNSW has released a 20-year infrastructure options study for rural river valleys which addresses future challenges in operating regulated river systems. The objective of the study was to guide water infrastructure investment by all levels of government.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian have announced a jointly funded package of around \$1bn for the planning and delivery of three new or augmented dams in NSW. This includes \$24m for a Final Business Case for building a new dam on Mole River, in the Border Rivers region of NSW.

The Border Rivers is a large catchment that services both NSW and QLD users. Its water supply is serviced by three relatively small catchment dams and large on-farm storages. A new dam will have the potential to secure more water in flood sequences so that in drier times more water would be available to communities, agriculture, and the environment.

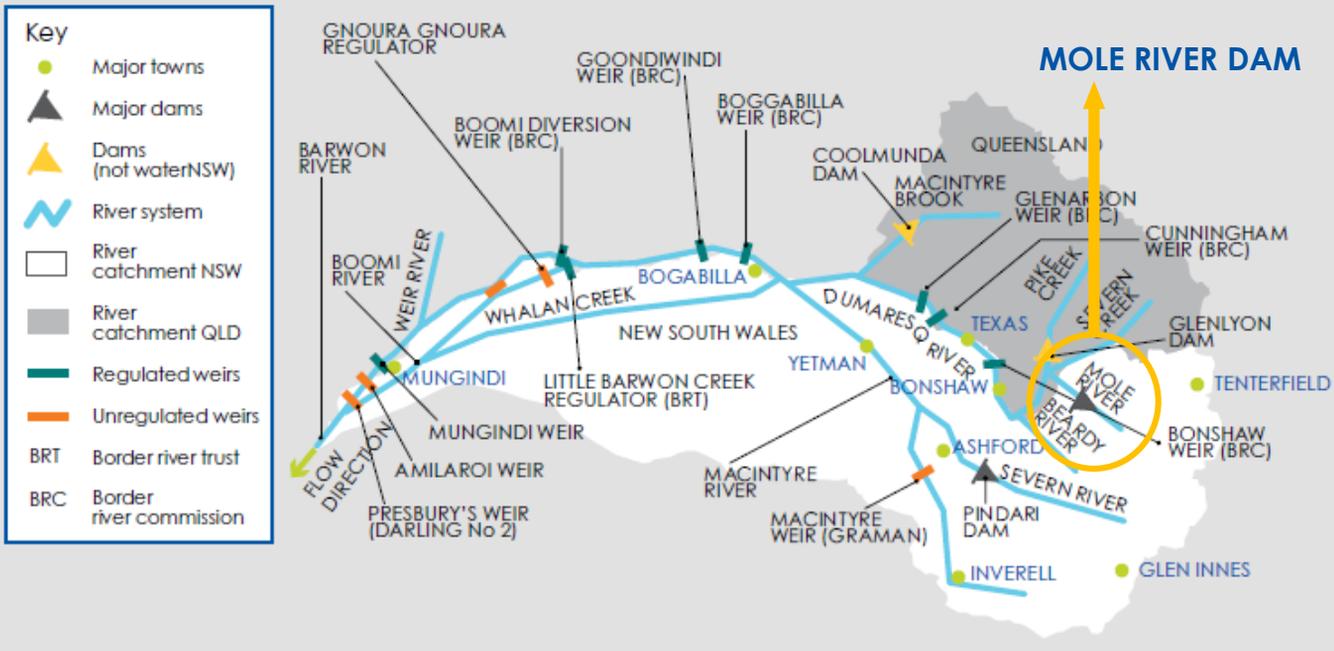
Estimated cost

\$355M*

*Federal & State Govts have committed \$24m for a Final Business Case.

Storage capacity

100-200GL



Estimated timeline

Community Engagement

- 2020**
Community engagement commences
- Year One**
Concept Design & Environmental Assessment
- End of Year Two**
Project Determination
- Year Three**
Detailed Design & Pre-Construction enabling work
- From Year Four**
Dam construction
- Construction is expected to take 2-4 years, dependent on design.

Key benefits

- Enables sustained on-farm productivity as a result of more reliable and secure water supply
- Increases reliability for agricultural production and will help secure existing jobs and create new opportunities
- Improves security of town water supply and provides flood mitigation
- Supports the downstream Barwon-Darling system through increased flow reliability and associated environmental health outcomes
- Benefits are shared between QLD and NSW

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