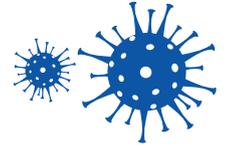


Wilcannia Weir Replacement



COVID-19 and what it means for the Wilcannia Weir Replacement project

Due to the restrictions in place for the outbreak of COVID-19 there are to be changes to the delivery timeframe for the Wilcannia Weir Replacement project. This reflects how WaterNSW is wanting to make sure the current social distancing guidelines and restrictions on public gatherings and other Government directives are followed, so communities are safer.

WaterNSW and the project team remain committed to delivering the new weir and our thoughts are with the Wilcannia community during these challenging times. We are very much looking forward to returning once restrictions are lifted and the community is ready health wise. We will be back in touch with new dates and plans as soon as it is possible to do so.

WaterNSW and the project team are:

- Ensuring the wellbeing of the community and project staff.
- Doing what we can to limit the spread of the virus.
- Continuing our operations that are essential to the people of NSW.

Activities that will be affected:

- Field studies for engineering assessments.
- Field studies for environmental assessments.
- Field studies for cultural heritage assessments.
- Community information sessions and school education activities.
- Art workshop session.
- Video production work and training.

Activities that will keep going:

- Concept design of the weir, fishway and recreational area.
- Preparation for local community training and employment.
- Development of a procurement strategy for the construction of the weir.
- Planning and approval discussions with key Government agencies.

WaterNSW are committed to delivering the new weir by progressing all possible activities without putting the community at risk. The weir was due to be finished by 2021 but until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the completion date is not certain. The weir is critical to the towns water security needs and as such, we are working closely with DPIE and government agencies to find solutions. We will keep you updated.

Timeline Snap Shot



Community Information Sessions held in February

The Wilcannia Weir project team had lots of good meetings with the local community when they last visited Wilcannia on the 26-27 February 2020.

Two community sessions were run, with residents, school students and community groups attending the golf-club and the community hall. Eight large posters provided information on the benefits of the new weir, location, preliminary concept design and features, fishway and gates, legal and approval requirements. This information is available for anyone who would still like it by contacting us at WilcanniaWeir@waterNSW.com.au or phone our community engagement officer, Felicity Rooney on 1300 662 077.

We met with local artists and Wilcannia Central school teacher Lily Ferres, to plan an arts workshop to bring together local schools and artists and develop line drawings that will eventual feature at the weir site. Cyril Hunter and community members and local artists talked over ideas for the designs including totems and depictions of species native to the Darling River. The art workshop was planned to run in March, but due to COVID-19 it has been postponed until later in the year.

Our community education officer Tracey spent time at both Wilcannia Central school and St Theresa's Catholic School to deliver lessons to the students on the new weir. She used a model to show how the new weir would work and students developed an art piece, learnt a poem and a dance about 'Gillie the Golden Perch'.

A video production project on the weir was also kicked off and the team are working closely with Brendon Adams from Wilcannia Radio to offer training and mentoring opportunities. Dolly Fox and Frances Dutton spent time over the 2 days, to begin video production training with Jason King from Broken Hill productions. They said they are keen to use their new skills to tell stories of their town and the people who live in Wilcannia. DJ Dolly also interviewed WaterNSW CEO David Harris at the station while he was in town.

To end the two days, community members went with David Harris and the team to the river to visit the old weir and the site of the new weir. The community spoke to WaterNSW about living on the river and the cultural importance this has, as river people.

A big thank you to the community for giving us their time and feedback over these two days.



Community members and school kids with WaterNSW CEO and project team at the Weir community information session in the hall.

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](https://twitter.com/WaterNSW)



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



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