## **Department of Planning and Environment**June 2022 newsletter





### Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project update

#### EIS on exhibition starting mid-July 2022

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project will go on public exhibition in mid July 2022 so community and stakeholders can provide their feedback. It will remain on exhibition for 28 calendar days.

An EIS is the highest form of environmental assessment and will include findings from the environmental and cultural heritage assessments, as well as outlining the steps to be taken to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment and cultural heritage during construction and operation.

The EIS will be on display at key locations in town. During the exhibition period, feedback can be submitted by:



• sending a written submission via the online NSW Planning Portal



• talking to an independent transcriber in Wilcannia (made available by the Department of Planning and Environment) to record and submit feedback.

Your comments on the EIS will be provided to the NSW and Australian Governments as part of the review, assessment and determination processes.

The details of how to view the EIS and speak to an independent transcriber will be made available to the community in the lead up to the exhibition period.

#### TAFE training in civil courses and getting employment ready



Water Infrastructure NSW is again partnering with TAFE NSW's Wilcannia campus and the Regional Enterprise Development Institute to run two weeks of training in excavation. The course will run at the Wilcannia TAFE campus in July and places have been quickly filled by Wilcannia locals eager to build on their skills and qualifications.

Graduates will receive their civil construction machinery ticket which will allow them to operate a range of plant machinery and equipment, and enhance their employment opportunities as part of the weir construction set to commence in 2023. The training will also benefit graduates looking to gain employment on other construction projects in the region and is a positive step forward for local employment. For more information about training and education, contact the REDIE Hub in Wilcannia on (08) 8083 9100.

Image: Previous training graduates

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#### Union Bend Road work to resume in July 2022



Water Infrastructure NSW is working with Central Darling Shire Council to upgrade Union Bend Road from dirt to gravel to support truck and machinery movements during the new Wilcannia Weir construction.

The Stage 1 roadwork is set to resume in August 2022 after wet weather delays. Stage 2 of the work will take place once the weir is complete.

Union Bend Road will be closed for the duration of the Stage 1 roadworks to ensure the safety of the work crew and community and will reopen when the roadworks are complete.

For more information and to see a video of the early roadwork visit dpie.nsw.gov.au/wilcannia-weir

Image: Union Bend Road

#### Wilcannia Weir project showcased at national conference



Water Infrastructure NSW recently spoke about community engagement for the Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project at the National Community Engagement for Infrastructure Forum (NCEIF) in Brisbane.

Wilcannia community leader, Brendon Adams, accompanied us and spoke passionately about the need to involve First Nations communities in the decision-making processes and planning for infrastructure projects. We also discussed the positive changes that training and job opportunities can make to communities.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, identified as the most popular presentation and described as, 'the most mesmerising, touching and authentic presentation our engagement community has seen.' Thank you to Brendon for traveling with the team and so genuinely representing the Wilcannia community.

Image: Brendon Adams speaking at NCEIF conference

This project is delivered under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan by the NSW Government, and jointly funded through the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and the NSW Government.