

PROJECT UPDATE

Wyangala Dam Wall Raising

MAY 2021

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The project

The Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project will provide thousands of Lachlan Valley residents, communities and businesses with improved water security, drought resilience and flood attenuation.

Jointly funded by the NSW and Commonwealth governments, this project will raise the current dam embankment and downstream rock fill to capture an additional 650GL of water storage at the dam. This is an increase in the dam storage capacity of 53 percent help communities throughout the Lachlan Valley to grow their populations and economies.

New water treatment plant contract awarded

The Wyangala community will soon have access to clean drinking water with the recent announcement by the Australian and NSW governments awarding the contract to start work on a new water treatment plant to service the area. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the \$4 million contract had been awarded to accomplished Australian infrastructure company, Enviropacific Services.

Planned as part of an early works package for the proposed Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project, the plant will deliver 800,000 litres of clean drinking water each day to residents and holidaymakers in Wyangala Village and the Wyangala Waters Holiday Park.

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey said the treatment plant is an example of work at Wyangala that could proceed while the dam wall-raising proposal is being assessed for approval by the Australian and NSW governments.

"This is a very welcome by-product of the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project and will have enormous benefits for the local community,"

Cowra Shire Council Mayor Bill West



L-R Member for Cootamundra Stephanie Cooke, Minister for Water, Property and Housing the Hon. Melinda Pavey and Cowra Shire Council Mayor Bill West

"This has been the number one concern for the Wyangala community since I was elected and I am proud of the work we have done together to get a potable water supply for the community,"

Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke

Construction partners shortlisted

In March 2021, NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing Melinda Pavey said Lachlan Valley communities were one step closer to improved water security with the announcement of two prospective design and construction partners for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project. After an extensive assessment process, Acciona and Seymour White have been shortlisted for the main construction work.

Minister Pavey said both Acciona and Seymour Whyte had been selected based on their strong regional experience, as well as their expertise in dam projects and major complex infrastructure.

Throughout the next eight months, each partner will work closely with the project team to develop two separate potential designs and provide expert construction advice for the project's business case and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The successful contractor will be announced in 2022 if the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project is approved for construction.

WaterNSW's local business register delivers early results

WaterNSW is strongly committed to maximising local business and employment opportunities from the project throughout the planning and construction of the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project. Through our local business portal we are connecting businesses with our contractors so they can use local capacity to deliver work.

More than 310 businesses have registered to supply products and services to the project and this information is already being used by the project team with hundreds of thousands of dollars already spent locally.

Registered through the portal, Nick Hibberson from Hibbos Earthworks Solutions has been providing services for the project's fieldwork investigations.

"This is a great way for local businesses across the region to connect their products and services to a significant regional project. The opportunities extend beyond construction, to hospitality, accommodation and professional services,"

**Nick Hibberson,
Hibbos Earthworks Solutions**

As part of the project's ongoing engagement, we will be providing updates on progress, procurement and opportunities for upcoming work. We will be holding further webinars for local businesses in May (see dates later in this newsletter).

We encourage you to register your local business and join one of the webinars visit www.waternsw.com.au/wyangalabusiness or call the project team on 1800 735 822.

"Regional Development Australia Central West supports the raising of the dam wall, to give more water security for all communities and users in the Lachlan Valley. It will also provide more opportunities for businesses growth and for employment,"



RDA Central West Board

Where is the project up to?

WaterNSW is continuing extensive investigations for the project to inform the development of the final business case, the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) and the design.

A key area of investigation is the hydrology and flood models for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project. This modelling and mapping is complex work, and it is critical that we get it right.

These models are key to finalising the inundation level, associated mapping, the EIS, final business case and, ultimately, understanding the impact on people's properties and Reflections Holiday Parks (Wyangala Waters and Grabine Lakeside), at the dam. The modelling will also be used to assess the impacts on the environment both upstream and downstream.



Environmental Impact Statement update

To prepare the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), WaterNSW has had multiple teams of environmental and technical specialists carrying out field work since mid-2020. These teams have gathered significant historic and current field data on a wide range of topics.

In addition to the status updates on some key reports, the EIS will address public safety, public access, impacts on utilities, impacts on Crown Lands and bushfire risk. WaterNSW thanks landholders who have allowed our field teams to access their properties.

Specialist studies update



Terrestrial biodiversity
field work complete,
assessment underway



Aquatic ecology
field work complete,
assessment underway



Aboriginal Cultural heritage
upstream field work complete,
assessment underway,
downstream Cultural Values
field work underway



Non-Aboriginal heritage
field work complete, draft
assessment complete



Traffic and transport
assessment underway



Noise and vibration
field work complete, draft
assessment complete



Air quality
field work complete, draft
assessment complete



Health impacts
assessment underway



Contamination and soils
draft assessment
complete



Hydrology
modelling and
assessment underway



Flood
modelling and
assessment underway



**Environmental Sustainable
Development (ISCA)**
draft assessment complete



**Landscape and
visual impact**
draft assessment complete



Social impacts
assessment underway



Waste
draft assessment complete



**Climate change risk
and greenhouse gas**
draft assessment complete

Next steps

Our fieldwork for EIS specialist reports is generally complete and assessments are at draft stage or ongoing. This work has provided preliminary data and early consideration of mitigation measures. Shortly the project team will be seeking feedback from local communities around the dam about expected specific impacts on towns. This early feedback from the community is vital to informing the project including the EIS, concept design and final business case. (See back page for details)

Our engagement so far

ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

43

Community events



Registered Aboriginal Parties

15



89 Stakeholder briefings

108



Landowner meetings

CONNECTING WITH YOU

333

Emails in



6,950

Emails out

304

Calls in



352

Calls out



368

Media stories

784

group members



8 posts
9 comments
49 reactions

24,689

Webpage views



22

Complaints received to date

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

315



Local businesses registered



10

Local businesses engaged

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

- Community Information Sessions - general project update, online 12, 13, 14 May and in person at Crookwell on 21 May.
- Local business webinars on 31 May and 1 and 2 June.
- Preliminary Environmental Impact Statement - early localised input sessions in person 17, 18, 19 and 20 May at Wyangala, Woodstock, Darbys Falls, Reids Flat and Bigga.

See back page for session details and times.

Landowner engagement

WaterNSW has been meeting with landholders, residents and communities across Wyangala, Woodstock, Darbys Falls, Reids Flat and Bigga to provide an update on the project. We have held 43 community information sessions with about 419 people attending – these were done in small groups due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In addition to these sessions, WaterNSW held 13 online information webinars in early 2021 for the broader NSW Central West communities, businesses and stakeholders. These sessions follow on from engagement with stakeholders, communities and impacted landholders, Aboriginal groups and people, which started in early 2020. In April, the team also held eight information sessions to inform residents and communities downstream of the dam.

Introductory letters have been sent and one-on-one meetings have been held with the potentially impacted landholders upstream of the dam wall. WaterNSW staff have been at each meeting to provide information on the project, understand landholder perspectives, answer questions and discuss the approval processes and next steps.

The project team is progressing hydrology and flood modelling to be sufficiently detailed to inform inundation mapping at individual properties. We have started discussions with impacted landholders and expect to have the final inundation mapping available in mid-2021.

Property acquisition with impacted landholders is not expected to start until at least 2022 and must be finalised before the

dam wall construction is complete.

This process will involve independent market appraisals and include support to property owners to undertake their own valuations to inform the negotiation process. Landholders will also be provided upfront agreed support for legal services and have a personal manager appointed to guide them through the process.

This process is used by the NSW Government for land acquisition. For more information about this process, visit the NSW Government Centre for Property Acquisition www.propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

Upcoming activities

2021/2022



Community information sessions and webinars continue



Landholder engagement continues



Final business case developed



Environmental Impact Statement developed



Detailed design starts



Alliance design and construction partner development phase



Construction planning for Holiday Parks finalised



Construction of Water Treatment Plant at Wyangala



Frequently asked questions

Will dam storage be impacted during construction?

We understand this is an important issue for many people and businesses in Lachlan Valley communities. The Wyangala dam must remain operational and safe throughout construction for the raising of the wall.

WaterNSW has experience in successfully undertaking significant dam-raising and modification works in an active operating environment, without impacting water users.

The NSW Government has announced the appointment of two prospective design and construction partners for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project main wall construction.

After an extensive assessment process, Acciona and Seymour Whyte have been shortlisted because of their strong regional experience as well as expertise in dam projects and major complex infrastructure. This contracting approach is called an Alliance Partnership.

During the next eight months, each partner will work with the project team to develop two separate potential designs and provide expert construction advice for the project's Final Business Case and Environmental Impact Statement. The successful contractor will be announced in 2022.

As part of this program, the partners are using their significant international experience to investigate engineering solutions for managing the water level in the dam throughout construction. These investigations are at an early stage

WaterNSW will continue its extensive engagement to date with landholders and other stakeholders to build on our understanding of any potential impacts.

Will the dam's storage capacity be impacted by the silt in the dam?

WaterNSW has previously carried out studies to look at potential silting in the Wyangala Dam and has not found it to be an issue.

There is ongoing managing of the dam and any potential impacts on it efficient and effective operations.

Will the dam ever fill?

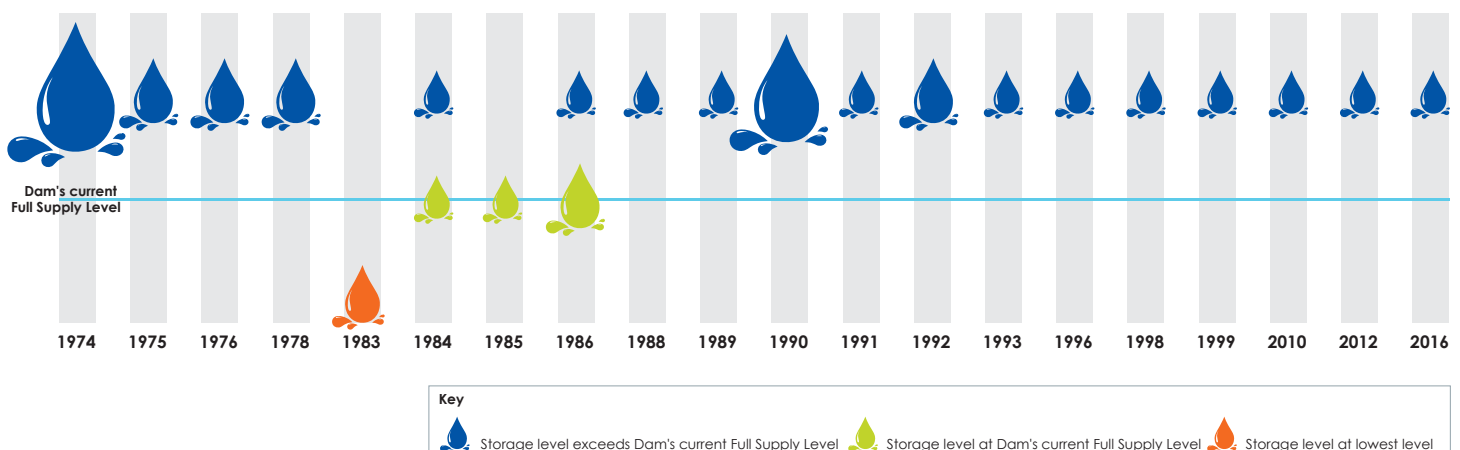
The Lachlan Valley experienced significant rain events in 2010-11, 2012-13 and 2016-17. During the 2016-17 rain event, more than 1000 gigalitres of controlled releases were made from the Wyangala Dam. These significant rain events would have filled the additional airspace created by a raised Wyangala Dam wall (~650GL) and have resulted in a significant spill sending about 350GL of water downstream. Much of the water from the rain event that impacted the Lachlan Valley in 2016 would have been captured and stored which would have significantly improved water security for the valley when the drought conditions resumed soon after.

Will new water licences be made available?

This project aims to create greater security and reliability for existing water licences in the Lachlan Valley. There are no intentions for new water licences to be provided following the raising of the Wyangala Dam wall.

Will the extra water be used to supply the city of Orange?

The project aims to provide better water reliability for the Lachlan Valley. Orange is within the Macquarie River catchment. There are no plans to transfer extra water captured in the Wyangala Dam to the city of Orange.



Community information sessions

You are invited to attend the latest round of community information sessions for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project.

Join us for a general update on the project and to speak with members of our team; either visit us in person or online:

In person

- Friday 21 May, Crookwell Bowling Club: Noon to 2:30pm
- Friday 21 May, Crookwell Services Club: 5:30pm to 7:30pm

[Please RSVP for community information sessions here](#) or scan the QR code



Stay up to date on project news

If you would like to receive information about the project directly from WaterNSW, please visit our website or send your name and contact details to wyangaladamproject@watersw.com.au or scan the QR code to subscribe to our regular project updates.

 For general enquiries and to subscribe to project updates email wyangaladamproject@watersw.com.au

 To join the Community Facebook Group visit WaterNSW – Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project

 Follow us on Twitter @WaterNSW

 Call 1800 735 822

 To register your local business visit www.watersw.com.au/wyangalabusiness

Preliminary EIS data – early feedback sessions

We are also holding information and early input sessions for the Wyangala Dam Wall Raising project preliminary Environmental Impact Statement date in towns around the dam. The project team will be at these locations to update local residents and landholders on the project, answer questions, and seek your early feedback on preliminary environmental assessment data about impacts and proposed mitigation measures we have identified specific to your community.

- Monday 17 May, Wyangala Country Club: Noon to 2:30pm and 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Tuesday 18 May, Woodstock CWA Hall: Noon to 2:30pm
- Tuesday 18 May, Darbys Falls RFS Shed: 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Wednesday 19 May, Reids Flat RFS Hall: Noon to 2:30pm and 5:30pm to 7:30pm
- Thursday 20 May, Bigga Golf Club: Noon to 2:30pm and 5:30pm to 7:30pm

All of our consultation will better inform the environmental assessment as it continues to be developed for the project's planning and approvals. As more detail from technical specialists reports and our other work becomes available, we will continue to seek your feedback as well as provide project updates.

[Please RSVP for early input sessions here](#) or scan the QR code

