

Gunidgera Weir Upgrade

Client WaterNSW
Date 2020 - current

Description

WaterNSW is upgrading Gunidgera Weir as part of the Western Weirs Program. The Program is expected to improve water delivery efficiency and river connectivity and lead to improved long term water availability and access for far west regional communities.



The Gunidgera Weir enables water flows to be stored, controlled and released from the weir pool into the Namoi River and also into the Gunidgera - Pian Creek System. The upgrade will increase the diversion capacity from the Gunidgera Weir pool into the Gunidgera - Pian Creek system from 1230 megalitres per day (ML/day) to 1650 ML/day. This will increase customer water supply security during the peak demand period of the irrigation season and improve capability for on time water delivery to customers.

Comacon has been engaged to develop and implement community engagement strategies and plans, manage landholder access negotiations, prepare communications collateral, organise and deliver community information sessions, provide stakeholder and risk analysis and respond to community and project enquiries.

Approach

Comacon is working closely with the WaterNSW project team to deliver the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP) which supports the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and outlines communications activities and channels from the project's Communications Action Plan.

Comacon supports WaterNSW's information helpdesk and responds to community enquiries and provides regular updates to internal and external stakeholders regarding the project. Communications collateral, emails, videos, newsletters, factsheets, newspaper and website content are also designed, prepared and delivered as part of Comacon's role within the multi-functional project team.

Benefits

Currently, peak customer demand for water delivery from the Gunidgera – Pian Creek System exceeds the maximum operational flow in the creek system. Therefore, this project is expected to enable WaterNSW to meet most, if not all, customer demand for water from the this system during the peak demand period of the irrigation season. In addition, these works will increase the delivery of water downstream of the regulator which will support agricultural production.

Contact

Coral Reynolds, Executive General Manager and Principal Consultant
Rachael Thomson, Consultant