

Macquarie River Re-Regulating Storage

Client: WaterNSW

Date: 2019 - 2021

Value: \$30m+

Description

WaterNSW was engaged by the NSW Government to develop a final business case for a proposed gated weir and fishway on the Macquarie River. This new weir will improve water security, reliability, delivery efficiency and the ability to manage flows for customers in the Macquarie Valley. It will also help to regulate water flows between Burrendong Dam and Warren.



Comacon was engaged to provide community and stakeholder engagement services and deliver the communications and stakeholder engagement plan for this project.

Approach

As part of the early project engagement, Comacon consultants and the WaterNSW Community Engagement team, reached out to over 270 stakeholder groups and community members, with 70 stakeholder groups (including government agencies, interest groups and landowners) directly engaged on the project.

In late 2019 and early 2020, we ran a series of workshops where we invited participants to challenge aspects of the project development and identify opportunities and constraints. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we revised our approach and began using online engagement tools to meet NSW Health guidelines and social distancing requirements. We resumed our preferred approach of face-to-face briefings in early May 2021.

Feedback from the community greatly contributed to location selection and the current design of the proposed weir and fishway and will continue to do so as the project progresses to a Final Business Case submission and environmental assessment process.

Benefits

- improved long-term water security strategic objectives in the Macquarie Valley
- improved delivery efficiency to customers downstream of Gin Gin
- reduced transmission losses when transferring and delivering water through the river system on an annual basis
- maximised available water for general security customers within the sustainable diversion limits set under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Contact

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