

Wilcannia Weir Replacement

Wilcannia Weir Project timeline 2021

WaterNSW is committed to start building the new weir by the end of 2021.

Now that the cultural heritage and ecology studies are nearly completed, the environmental report that shows all the findings, needs to be finished. It will then be assessed and approved by both State and Federal agencies. This report is called an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS).

The State Government makes the EIS report available to the public for 28 days so that the community and interested parties can review the findings and the environmental impacts of the new weir and provide feedback. The EIS report is to be finished in April 2021 and the public exhibition planned for May 2021.

The community is encouraged to provide feedback on this important EIS document. During the public exhibition, the community will see the document both on paper in chosen locations around town and online on the NSW Government website. During the public exhibition you can give your feedback directly to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.



Start of the tender process

The Weir project team have started preparing documents for the tender process so that contractors can bid for the upcoming construction work on the new weir. The tender is to be advertised in March, with a preferred contractor selected by July. This allows us to finish the detailed design of the weir while at the same time, continuing the EIS approval process. Running these processes in parallel helps avoid delays, however the EIS must be endorsed before any project works can start. It remains our primary focus to achieve approval and start work by the end of 2021.

WaterNSW is committed to providing local employment and community benefits as part of the project. Any contractors who bid for the work have to demonstrate how they will achieve this as part of their application. Please come along to our community sessions in March to provide your input and ask questions on how WaterNSW will meet these commitments.

2020 wrap up

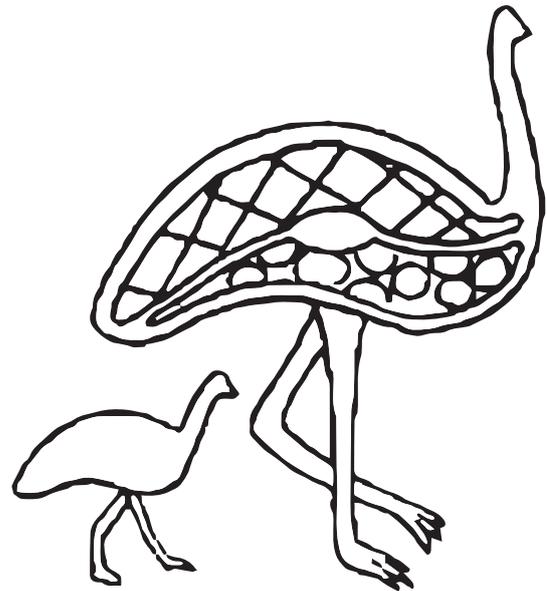
2020 was a challenging year with Covid-19 restrictions in place from April 2020. WaterNSW thanks the local communities, key stakeholders and government agencies for working with us to adapt our plans and complete the following key project activities during the year:



Community River Place

At the October and November 2020 community sessions, the team received feedback on the Community River Place to be developed next to the new weir. This area is where community and visitors can picnic, view the new weir and access fishing further downstream. We want to hear feedback on this area, including basic facilities such as tables, a walking or driving track and interpretive signage. The community has also said they want to recycle and reuse some of the rocks from the old weir site. The team want to hear your feedback in March so the final plans can be drawn up.

WaterNSW will meet with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) at the next visit to talk more about cultural heritage items and places and how they can be best protected.



Wilcannia Weir Aboriginal Registered Parties (Owen Whyman, Monica Whyman, Michael Kennedy, Cyril Hunter and Badger Bates) at the cultural heritage field surveys in 2020.



Wilcannia Weir community initiatives

TAFE training program 2021

WaterNSW has partnered with TAFE NSW, REDI.E and Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly to continue TAFE training in Construction, Hospitality and Tourism at the Wilcannia campus from February 2021. This training is part of our commitment to further employment opportunities for the local community.

The Fit for Work program ran for the first two weeks of February to prepare students for the courses. Anyone can join and get assistance to enrol for the Construction, Hospitality and Tourism courses.

Seven participants graduated from *Certificate 2 in Construction* in 2020. The next *Certificate 1 in Construction* started in early February and will cover the bookwork needed for graduates to apply for a Handyman's licence.

Certificate 2 in Hospitality has also started in February where you can learn skills in preparing and serving food, non-alcoholic drinks and coffee, to help get work in a club, roadhouse, hotel or motel, caravan park or similar.

The *Certificate 2 in Tourism* starts in April and will cover skills in how to lead tours, give information to visitors, share information on history and culture and talk to people about Wilcannia and its important sites.

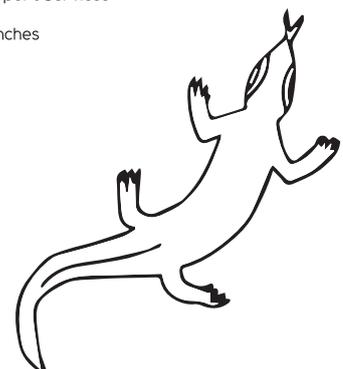
For more information or to enrol contact the Wilcannia TAFE, Brendon Adams at REDI.E or Monica Whyman from the Wilcannia Community Working Party.

Training Timeline



Courses include:

- TAFE Education Support Officer based in Wilcannia
- Excursions Support Services
- PPE Equipment and Uniforms for all Participants
- Participant Lunches





Weir Art Project

In December 2020 our education officer Tracey Willingham and Wilcannia community elder Sissy King visited Wilcannia Central, St Therese’s Catholic School, Barlu Kurli Preschool and Wings Drop-in Centre to start working on piecing together the artworks for the new weir site.

Sissy shared some cultural stories with the students. The students then sifted through over 150 artworks that students and community members drew at the November workshops, to select images to tell their own story or scene.

A number of river life and underwater scenes were created across the sessions. These scenes will be used to make a couple of final story scenes that will be provided back to the community for feedback when the team visit in March. Thanks and acknowledgement to the artists for their artwork drawn during the November 2020 workshops that feature in this update - Bama Johnson (emu, fish, goanna), Katrina Johnson (shell), Belinda King (seeds) and Tammy King (flower).



Tracey and Sissy working with students to create stories for the new weir site.

Next Visit is in March!

The project team are returning to Wilcannia from the 23 - 25 March 2021.



Community sessions to provide updates on environmental studies, public exhibition, and the Community River Place



Meeting with the RAPs to talk about the public exhibition in May



Receive feedback on artwork scenes for the new weir



Show an animation that explains how the weir is planned to operate

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**

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Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

