

Reconnecting River Country

Fact sheet - how we will collaborate

Collaboration

There will be a range of opportunities for communities and landholders to have their say on the Reconnecting River Country Program.

The NSW Government has looked at the lessons learned from previous consultations and has designed a program focused on working collaboratively and extensively with the community to meet local needs.

As part of our collaboration model, we are seeking feedback and ideas from peak bodies, private and public landholders, First Nations communities and other community groups and stakeholders on aspects of the program including (but not exclusive to):

- the benefits and impacts of different flow options and preferred flow ranges to feed into the Options Evaluation Framework
- the accuracy of the most recent inundation maps through on-ground validation
- possible mitigation options and activities to feed into the Impact Management Toolbox
- the Landholder Negotiation Framework
- how we can improve and strengthen our stakeholder engagement, collaboration and communication processes
- landholder and community sentiment about the program.

This layered approach will ensure a wide range of perspectives - including state-wide, regional and local - are incorporated into the program.

Water Infrastructure NSW within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is currently working with stakeholders on a co-design model to underpin its approach to working in partnership with the community on current and future projects and programs.

We will work with

Peak bodies

Relevant NSW peak body group representatives will be engaged to review, provide ongoing advice and inform the approach and process of the program. It is anticipated the advice provided by peak bodies will represent a range of environmental, economic, social and cultural perspectives and insights.

Regional focus groups

Rather than creating new groups, we will draw on the knowledge of existing regional project area groups. In doing so, we hope to minimise consultation fatigue and utilise established governance mechanisms and expertise. Regional focus groups will be asked to collaborate with us via workshops where their expertise and advice will be sought on various aspects of the program, particularly surrounding the Impact Management Toolbox, Options Evaluation Framework and flow options.

Landholders / community members / First Nations communities

At a local level, we will engage one-to-one with a representative group of landholders, community representatives and First Nations groups or individuals as part of the initial collaboration phase. These engagements will focus on the same issues outlined for regional focus groups above. Participants will be selected via an application process to ensure a diverse array of perspectives, interests and regions are represented. These stakeholders will also have an opportunity to take part in 'collaboration hubs,' bringing together small groups of diverse stakeholders to share their personal perspectives and hear the perspectives of others.

Collaboration hubs

We will also provide opportunities for stakeholders to take part in small-group engagements to share their perspectives with one another and learn from their peers, as part of a flexible and dynamic consultation and awareness program.

Throughout the course of the program, we will provide regular updates via the [program website](#) and offer a variety of other engagement opportunities such as webinars, questions and answer sessions, information materials, surveys and workshops.

COVID-19 Safety

The safety of our communities is our number one priority as we work with stakeholders to develop and implement the program. We will provide a range of opportunities to engage with us in a COVID-19 safe way, including online channels, over the phone and on-site visits (COVID-19 restrictions permitting). Each engagement opportunity will be assessed, and safety precautions implemented, as per NSW Health's requirements. We will continue to provide a range of online resources to support the process.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Department of Regional NSW's Local Land Services acknowledge we stand on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our commitment to proving places where First Nations communities are included socially, culturally and economically.

Find out more

Website	dpie.nsw.gov.au/reconnecting-river-country-program
Phone	1300 795 299
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