

Wilcannia Weir Replacement

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Assessments

The project team preparing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Wilcannia Weir replacement recently met with the community to discuss the project and answer questions at a series of community information sessions. Several specialists have also carried out field surveys to gather information for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). These included surveys for Aboriginal cultural heritage, European heritage and ecology. The outcomes of these studies will be on display for the community to provide comments in early 2021. The EIS is a key study that has to happen prior to the construction starting. Please look at the graphic on page 4, to see the timeline and activities.



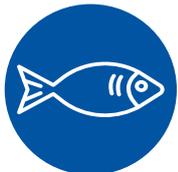
Cultural heritage

Archaeologists were in Wilcannia from 5-9 November to survey the Aboriginal places and items around the project sites. The WaterNSW Project team would like to thank the cultural knowledge holders who represented the Barkandji community as the nominated Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the study. They worked out in the field over five days with members of the team to identify the significant Aboriginal places and objects that are at the locations where the work will take place. This is the first important step in preparing the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.



European heritage

Heritage specialists visited Wilcannia on the 11-12 November to collect information on the town's historic heritage this month so thanks also to the community members who helped to provide this important information.



Ecology studies

Ecologists visited Wilcannia between the 17-26 November to survey flora and fauna, including native fish. You may see them around the river sites doing these important studies, which are critical parts of the Environmental Impact Statement.



Training Program Update

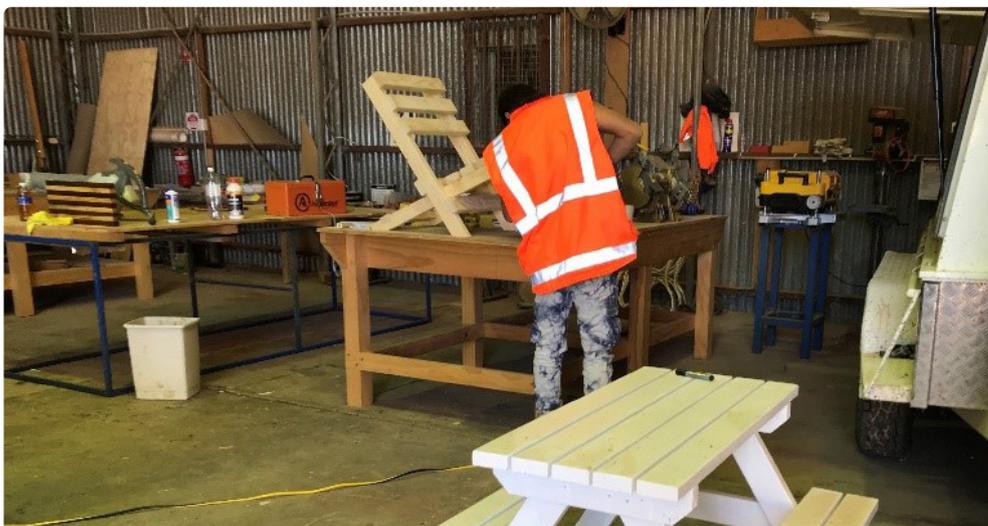
The WaterNSW Wilcannia Weir project team are working together with TAFE NSW, Regional Enterprise Development Institute (REDI.E) and Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) to deliver the first of a package of training courses in Wilcannia. Raymond Wise (Wilcannia TAFE), Monica Whyman (Wilcannia Community Working Party), Brendan Adams (REDIE) and Owen Whyman have all been working hard to support the delivery of the courses.

The first 'Fit for Work' course ran in October and prepared students for the Certificate 2 in Construction course, which is now underway.

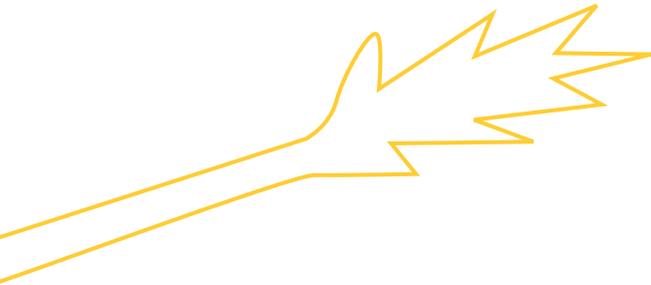
There are seven participants enrolled and they are enjoying the practical aspects of the course and learning new skills, with some great pieces being handcrafted as shown in the photos.

The students are just about to complete their white cards, which is an important general induction into the construction industry, and the course finish date is Friday 18th December 2020.

The next course is the Certificate 1 in Construction starting in February 2021. Participants who complete both of these certificates will be able to apply for their Handyman License.



TAFE participants in the Certificate 2 in Construction



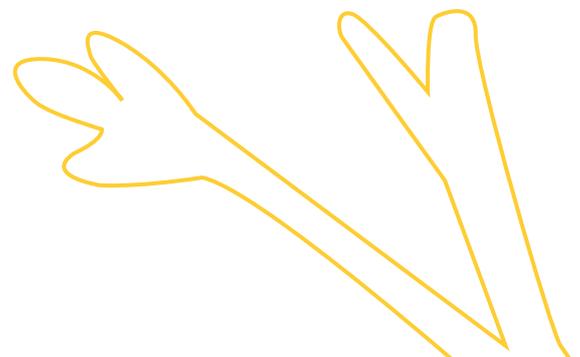
Art Workshops Update

The community and school art workshops that were run in Wilcannia from the 3-5 November were a great success, with a collection of approx. 150 artworks submitted. The workshops were held for students and the community to develop artwork that can be used at the new weir location.

Community Education Officer for WaterNSW Tracey Willingham worked with Lily Ferres ex-teacher at the Central School, to run the sessions at the Courthouse, St Theresa's Catholic School and Wilcannia Central School. Year 12 student Bama Johnson also assisted with the workshops, inspiring the younger ones to draw.

A series of posters were provided to help workshop participants, of all ages, to select flora or fauna to draw. Practice paper was provided, before the young artists were given a black, fine line marker and bleed-proof paper to create their individual masterpiece.

To see the children of all ages putting pencil and marker to paper was remarkable and many fish, flowers and river creatures were drawn. We thank all of the participants for their time, efforts and contribution during the art workshops and we look forward to coming back in December to talk to the schools and any interested community members on how to put the images together to create a story. It is not too late if anyone still wants to contribute a drawing and they are welcome to do this when we are visiting in December.

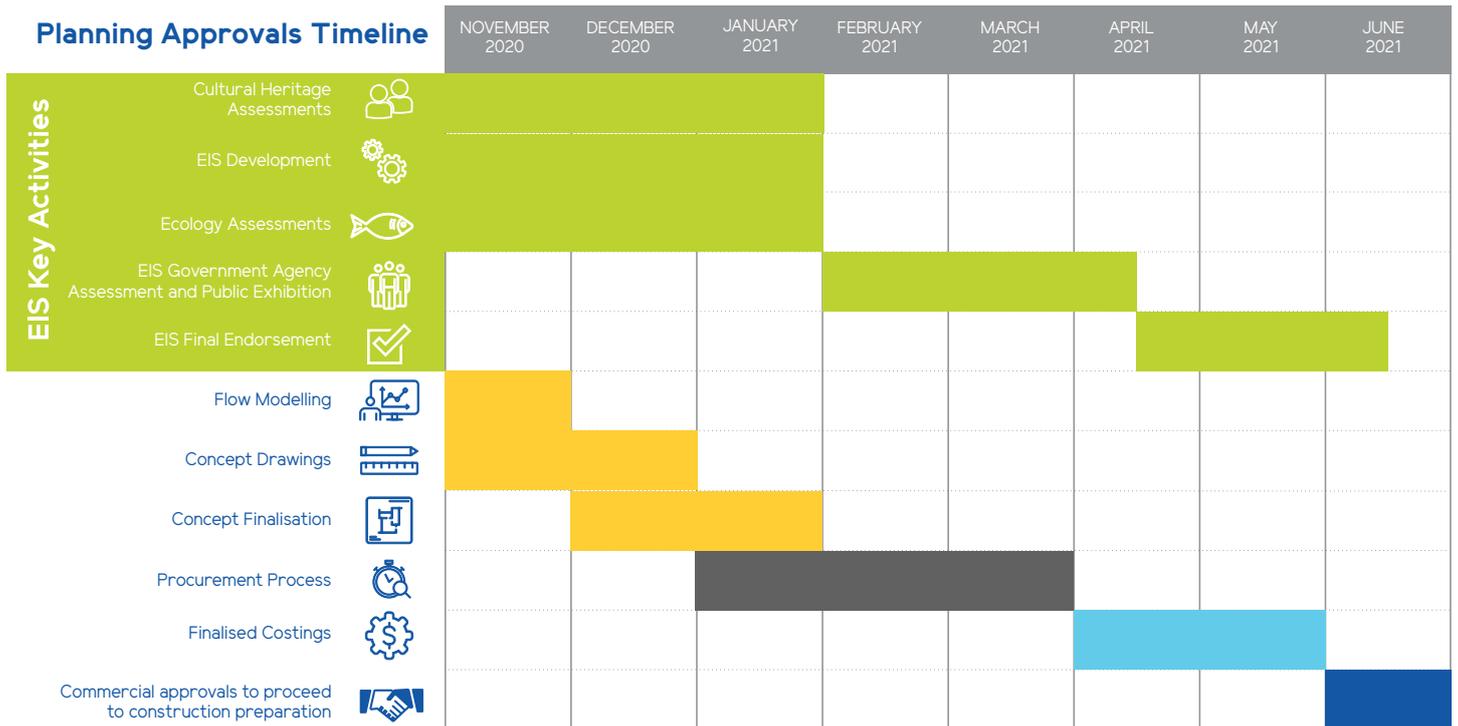


Project Timeline



DPIE - Department of Planning Industry and Environment
 EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

Planning Approvals Timeline



Next Visit is in December!

The project team are returning to Wilcannia from the 8-10 December.



Community Sessions to provide updates on the cultural heritage and ecology studies and on the Community River Place planning.



Meeting with the Registered Aboriginal Parties to provide the findings from the recent field work.



Follow up art workshops with the school groups to put together the many pieces of work they did in early November.

A flyer with more detailed information, times and locations will be sent out to the community and stakeholders shortly.

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**



Australian Government
 Department of Agriculture,
 Water and the Environment



This project is delivered under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan by the NSW Government, and is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the NSW Government