

Plans to replace damaged Gin Gin Weir with modern design



Thank you for following our updates over the last few weeks on the Macquarie River Re-regulating Storage Project.

WaterNSW is proposing to replace the century-old Gin Gin Weir with a modern gated weir and fishway, designed to improve water security and reliability for all water users in the Macquarie Valley.

To date we have undertaken extensive stakeholder and community consultation. This has played a key role in the development of the project, and will continue to do so as the project progresses through to Final Business Case submission and environmental assessment process.

So far, your feedback has greatly contributed to both the location selection and current design of the proposed weir and fishway. Major changes to the design have included the reduction of storage capacity from 9 gigalitres (GL) to 6GL, as well as the evolution of the fishway design, in order to minimise the impacts to both the aquatic and terrestrial environments whilst still meeting operational needs.

What community and stakeholder engagement has been conducted, so far?

Since July 2019, we have engaged with a range of key stakeholders, landowners and community members. This feedback has contributed to the continued refinement of the design and operational requirements and will be outlined in the Final Business Case.

As part of our early engagement, we 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.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, we held 26 face-to-face briefings. Meeting stakeholders and community in person is our preferred method of engagement, however, due to government requirements to slow the spread of the virus, we revised our approach replacing face-to-face engagement with the use of online engagement tools.

We will continue to monitor restrictions and plan face-to-face engagement opportunities when we can.

What's next?

We are currently finalising the outcomes of the feasibility studies for the Final Business Case before submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment later this year.

Following the Final Business Case investment decision, the project will progress to the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Preparation of the EIS will involve further engagement opportunities for stakeholders and the wider community.

*Stakeholder Workshop Series

Following the Stakeholder Forums held in late 2019 and early 2020, participants were invited to register their interest to attend a series of stakeholder workshops.

At these workshops, participants were invited to challenge aspects of the project development and identify opportunities and constraints to be considered by the Government Agency Operational Requirements Working Group, which is set with the task of assisting the project team in developing the operational recommendations of the new weir and fishway.

The first session was held in August 2020, with the next session to be held in early 2021.

How to get involved

We want to continue to hear what is important to you. Broader engagement for the project is still open to all community members and stakeholders who are interested in the project.

Our Recreational user survey is still open for comment. We invite you to complete this survey to share your views on how you use the existing area at the Gin Gin Weir, visit our webpage or call us to post you a copy.

Going forward, there will continue to be opportunities for you to get involved and have your say on the project.

The next newsletter is due to be released in the coming weeks.

To receive our latest updates or provide feedback, register your details via email to mrrrs@waternsw.com.au. To read our previous updates and to know more, visit our webpage www.waternsw.com.au/mrrrs

Engagement activities to date have included:

-  63 external briefings and presentations to local councils, Local Aboriginal Lands Councils, government agencies, interest groups, and specialists (Face-to-face and online)
-  2-day landowner and community drop-in session held in December 2019
-  6 Stakeholder Forums with recreational, environmental, community groups and customers held in late 2019 - mid 2020 (Face-to-face and online)
-  6 weekly full page advertisements in three local publications in the Macquarie Valley to raise awareness (23,000 copies weekly)

-  35 responses received for the Recreational user survey (still open for comment)
-  1.2k views of our project animation on the proposed design (visit webpage for details)
-  4 Facebook Live recorded sessions held in August - September 2020 (visit webpage for recordings)

Contact us

To know more about the project

Visit us online www.waternsw.com.au/mrrrs

Join our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/MRRRS](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MRRRS)

To receive project updates or provide feedback

Email us at MRRRS@waternsw.com.au

Call us on 1300 662 077