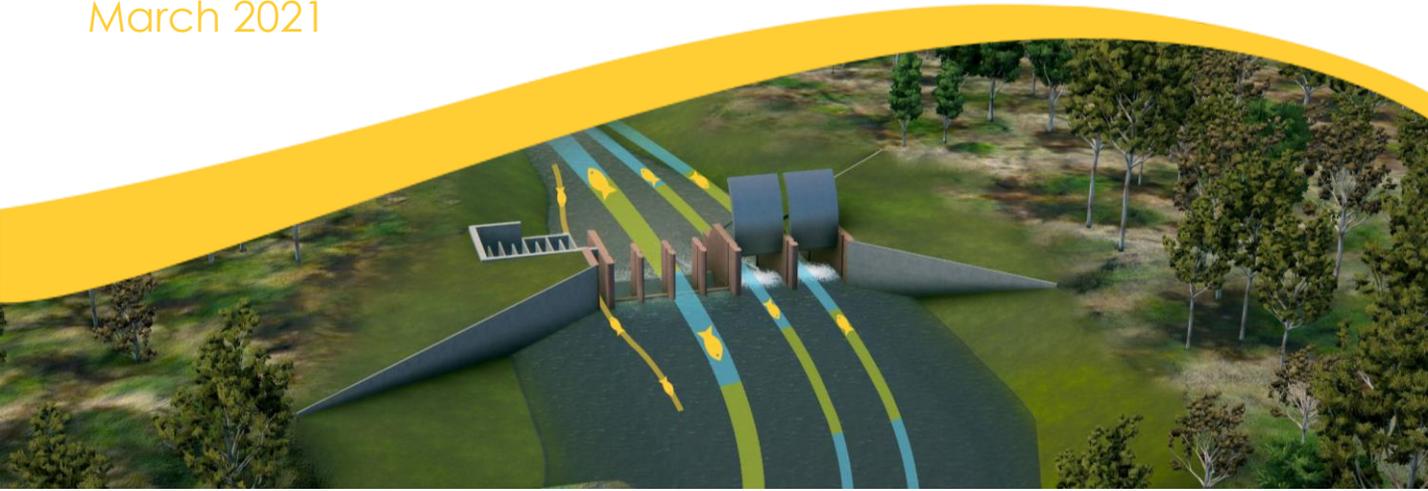


Macquarie Valley

Macquarie River Re-regulating Storage Project

March 2021



Latest news

WaterNSW is continuing development of a Final Business Case to be submitted to the NSW Government for a proposed gated weir and fishway on the Macquarie River.

Since our last community update, WaterNSW have:

- ❑ Continued work on the Final Business Case which will be completed in late 2021 / early 2022, subject to Environmental Impact Statement progress.
- ❑ Continued key environmental and heritage assessments.
- ❑ Continued engagement with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to review the hydrological assessment for the project.
- ❑ Commenced the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment with Registered Aboriginal Parties.
- ❑ Held meetings with traditional owners and Aboriginal groups, forming an Aboriginal Working Group for the project.
- ❑ Planned the next Operational Requirements Working Group meeting for mid 2021. Outcomes from meetings with the ORWG will feed into the next stakeholder workshop to be held later this year.
- ❑ Scheduled several community forums for May 2021, details are on the following page.

Project background

The Macquarie Valley experiences relatively low water reliability and security compared to other water systems in NSW. This has generally been due to distribution difficulties and operational inefficiencies. To address this, the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) engaged WaterNSW to investigate options for improved water management and critical water infrastructure, including a proposed gated weir and fishway on the Macquarie River.

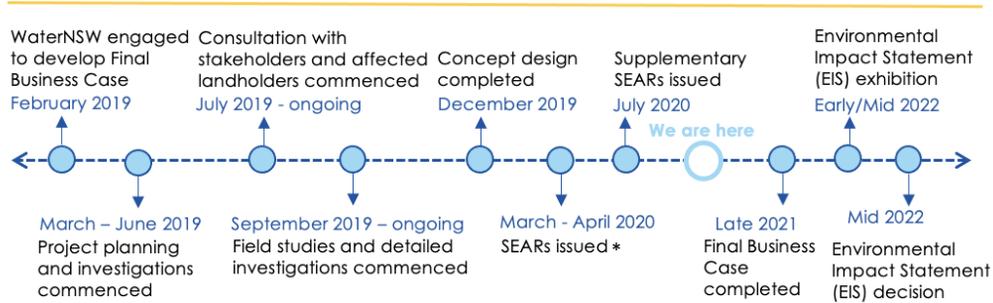
Early studies and community consultation focused on location options for the re-regulating storage between Warren and Narromine, with specific sites being investigated near Gin Gin and Rocky Point. The process was also supported through detailed assessment that drew on the *draft Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy*, as well as environmental, social and economic impacts.

These processes resulted in the identification of the preferred site, located 200 metres downstream of the existing Gin Gin Weir.

WaterNSW is now preparing a final business case (FBC) that is incorporating the outcomes from community and stakeholder consultation, as well as key environmental, engineering and hydrological studies.

The FBC is scheduled to be submitted to the NSW Government in late 2021 / early 2022 and will be assessed by Infrastructure NSW.

Macquarie River Re-regulating Storage Timeline



*SEARs is Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

Community Forums - All welcome

Please join us at our Community forums to discuss the project. Speak directly with key members of our team. The forums will include a presentation detailing the project. We will outline the key facts about the project including potential environmental and heritage impacts. Our environmental specialist will discuss studies and assessments being undertaken and planned mitigation measures.

The community forums will be held at:

Carinda - Tuesday 4 May 5.30 – 7.30pm

Carinda Hall
Colin Street, Carinda

Warren - Wednesday 5 May 5.30 – 7.30pm

Warren Sporting and Cultural Centre
Victoria Park, Udora Rd, Warren

Narromine - Thursday 6 May 5.30 – 7.30pm

Narromine United Services Memorial Club
58 Dandaloo St, Narromine

RSVP or send any questions by email to:

MRRRS@waternsw.com.au or call Donna Groves, Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead, on 0430 156 409.



Comparison of the existing weir at Gin Gin with the proposed design for the new structure.



Next steps

Work is continuing on the FBC and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concurrently. The hydrological, ecological and heritage studies required to support the business case are also proceeding. Once completed, the FBC will be submitted to the NSW Government for an investment decision.

Ongoing stakeholder and community engagement is planned through the Aboriginal Working Group (AWG), Operational Requirements Working Group (ORWG), stakeholder series workshops and community forums. Further community information sessions will be arranged throughout 2021.

The project team are working through the assessments prescribed in the Secretaries Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) received in July 2020, which forms the scope of the EIS. Once completed the EIS will be placed on public exhibition. Stakeholders and the community will have a further opportunity to comment on the project at this stage.

A decision will be made on the EIS in 2022, and if approved by both NSW and Commonwealth Governments, construction can commence.

Stay informed and get in touch

WaterNSW values all stakeholder and community input in assisting with the development of the Final Business Case. Please get in contact and provide your feedback via the below channels.

Visit us online at:
waternsw.com.au/MRRRS

Call us on: **1300 662 077**

Email the project team at:
MRRRS@waternsw.com.au

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