

Western Weirs

Western Weirs project overview

The NSW government has engaged WaterNSW to prepare a strategic business case (SBC) for the holistic management and operation of the weirs in the Barwon-Darling and Lower Darling system. The project area extends from Mungindi on the NSW/QLD border to Wentworth in the far South West of NSW.

There are over 29 weirs along the Barwon-Darling River and the current infrastructure is known to have a number of deficiencies. These include poor condition of weirs, no system level functionality, flow regulation limitations, town water supply and water security concerns and unclear responsibility and ownership of structures. WaterNSW is investigating a holistic approach to the management of the weirs.

If fully implemented, the Western Weirs Program is expected to provide enhanced water delivery efficiency, improvements to river connectivity, long-term water availability and access for far west regional communities.

WaterNSW has assembled a project team to develop the business case. The project is in the early stages of consultation with stakeholders, to inform communities and stakeholders and receive feedback to input into the SBC. However, we are pausing on most of this consultation until the restrictions put in place by COVID-19 are eased.

Meeting with stakeholders face-to-face and providing equal opportunities for all stakeholders to be consulted is an important part of our engagement approach.

Images from top to bottom: Angledool weir, Banarway weir (Mogil Mogil), Goodooga weir, Collarenebri weir.



COVID-19 and what it means for the Western Weirs project

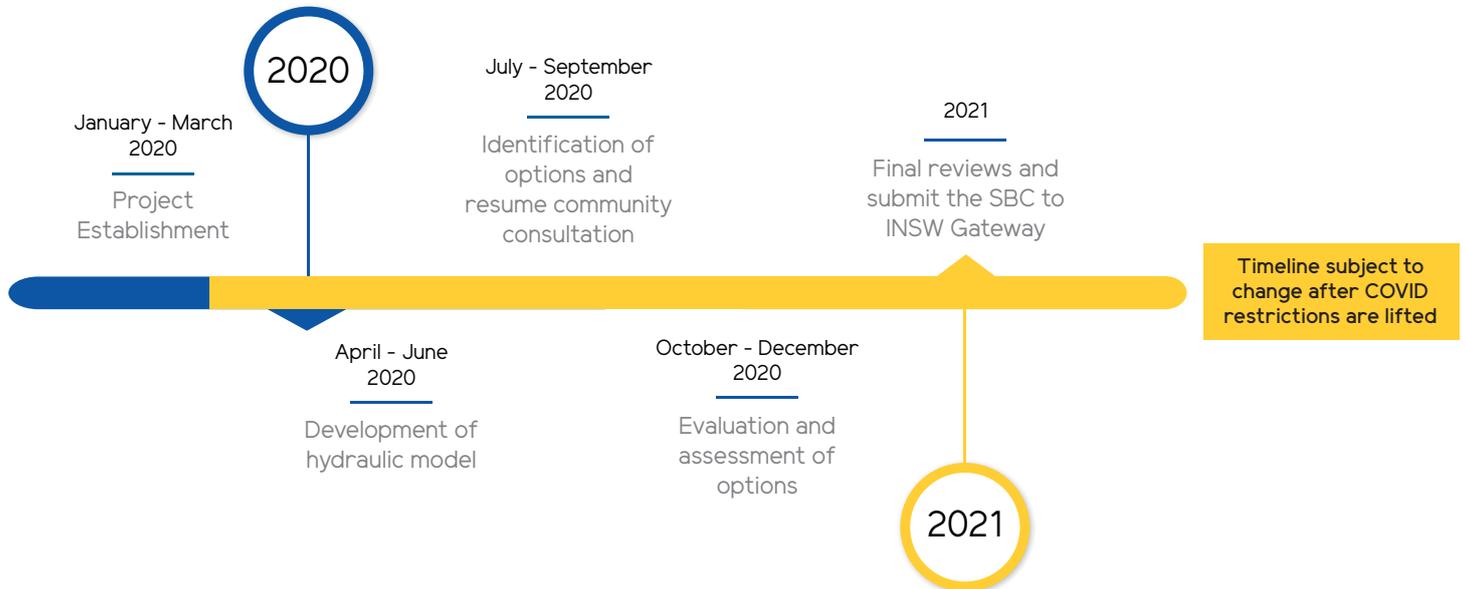


WaterNSW is committed to the health and safety of our people, customers and the communities we work in. We are also committed to providing the services essential to the people of NSW and to the continuation of our projects.

Due to the restrictions in place for the outbreak of COVID-19 there are to be some changes to the timing around some of the activities for the project. This reflects how WaterNSW is wanting to make sure the current social distancing guidelines and restrictions on public gatherings and other Government directives are followed, so communities are safer.

Where possible the project team are continuing engineering, modelling, surveying and assessment work. These activities are currently limited by the Covid-19 restrictions and the team's abilities to be on site and travel regionally. WaterNSW is committed to the safety of its staff and the communities in which we work. The project team look forward to resuming activities on site and face to face, after restrictions are lifted and it is safe to resume.

Timeline Snap Shot



Communications and engagement

To be fair and equitable and provide information to all stakeholders at the same time, face to face engagement is delayed until the team can safely travel and work with communities.

Information and updates are being provided online, over phone and email and on our website. Online meetings with the far west councils to obtain initial feedback and collect information is continuing. The project team will be contacting communities as soon as they can travel and arrange meetings to receive feedback on the project.

Next steps

WaterNSW is continuing to develop the SBC for consideration of funding decision by Government. The timeline above is subject to change due to the impacts of restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Community engagement to continue when Covid-19 restrictions lift and face to face consultation is safe for communities and the project team.
- Continue engineering, modelling, surveying and assessment work after the lifting of restrictions.

Keep in touch

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