

Gunidgera Weir Raising Project



Background

WaterNSW is raising Gunidgera Weir to improve water delivery in the Gunidgera—Pian system in the Namoi valley.

Located on the Namoi River, the Gunidgera Weir is approximately six kilometres west of Wee Waa. The Gunidgera Weir and upstream regulator enable water flows to be stored, controlled and released from the weir pool into Namoi River and Gunidgera - Pian Creek.

Constructed in 1976 the Gunidgera Weir allows for control and regulation of water. The Project will increase the maximum diversion capacity from the Gunidgera Weir pool into the Gunidgera - Pian Creek system from 1230 megalitres per day (ML/day) to 1650 ML/day. This will increase WaterNSW's ability to meet customers' water needs in times of peak demand.

The proposed upgrade works will occur in two stages:

Stage 1 Raising of the Gunidgera Weir by 0.47m and minor works at the Gunidgera Regulator and erosion control/protection works at Cotton Lane and Cudgewa Lane, within the first 12 km downstream of the Gunidgera Regulator.

Stage 2 Monitoring and where necessary rectification works on the Gunidgera – Pian Creek System to manage the additional flows.

Stage 1 works will occur on land owned by WaterNSW, Council and Crown Lands. Access for construction will be through Cotton Lane and Cudgewa Lane.

A dedicated WaterNSW project team is progressing the project, and construction of Stage 1 is planned to commence in early 2021.

Project Benefits

The Project will have a range of benefits that include:

- Improving water delivery to Gunidgera-Pian customers during peak demand periods
- Increasing capability for on-time delivery to customers
- Limiting environmental impacts by maintaining the existing channel width (a previous option considered was widening the channel).

Project Update – May 2021

Project timeframe

Since November 2019, WaterNSW has worked collaboratively with Government agencies to obtain the necessary approvals required for the project to proceed. WaterNSW received the final approval in December 2020 and a dedicated project team is working to efficiently deliver the project over the coming months. Construction is due to commence in June 2021.



Service Delivery Impacts

Construction has been scheduled after the peak irrigation season to minimise service delivery impacts as far as reasonably practicable.

During construction, Gunidgera Weir's gates will be propped open to facilitate the weir raising works. Any flows resulting from localised catchment inflows will be passed down the Namoi river through Gunidgera Weir during construction.

Supplementary access to Gunidgera-Pian creek customers will not be possible when the works are occurring at the weir.

The duration of the construction is expected to be around 6 weeks for all of the works however the construction period at the Weir will be 4 weeks.

Further details will be provided around the exact timing and the impacts on water delivery and river flows.

Consultation

Customers have been consulted through the Namoi Customer Advisory Group (CAG) and River Operations Stakeholder Consultation Committee (ROSSCo). The following stakeholders and government agencies have also been included in discussions:

- Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries
- Narrabri Shire Council

Further information will be provided through project fact sheets and website updates

Keep in touch

📞 Call us on **1300 662 077**

@ Email Us at **Customer.Helpdesk@waterNSW.com.au**

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