

# Mole River Dam Project: Environmental planning and assessment

## What is the environmental planning and assessment process?

The Mole River Dam project is declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure under Part 5, Division 5.2 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and through the *NSW Water Supply (Critical Needs) Act 2019*.

WaterNSW is seeking approval from the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for the Mole River Dam project. Approval is also required from the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment through the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

The assessment process requires that WaterNSW prepare a Social Impact Assessment to accompany the Strategic Business Case for the project.

## What is a social impact assessment?

A Social Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the Strategic Business Case and will address the potential social impacts of the project to the local area, regional area and the state.

A social impact is a consequence experienced by people due to changes associated with a project. Social impacts can involve changes to people's:

- way of life;
- community;
- access to and use of infrastructure, services and facilities;
- culture;
- health and well-being;
- personal and property rights;
- decision-making systems; and
- fears and aspirations.

A social impact can be either positive or negative and may be experienced differently by different people and groups within a community, between communities, and at different stages of a project.

## How can you contribute to the social impact assessment?

WaterNSW is committed to working with the community to understand your views, interests and what is important to you.

Your feedback is an important part of the environmental planning and assessment process and assists in ensuring that the Strategic Business Case addresses your issues and/or concerns and acknowledges the benefits to the community.

EMM will be conducting a range of Social Impact Assessment field studies between September and October 2020 and will be seeking input from local community and interested stakeholders. These activities may include face to face interviews and online survey.

## Stakeholder engagement during COVID-19

All community consultation will be undertaken in line with current government guidelines, which will include social distancing and increased hygiene practices. Wherever possible the project team will provide you with options for engagement that best suit your circumstances while keeping you and the project team safe.

## Contact us

For more information about the Strategic Business Case or Social Impact Assessment please contact us at [moleriverdamproject@waternsw.com.au](mailto:moleriverdamproject@waternsw.com.au) or 1800 560 729.

Alternatively, you can find out more information on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Major Projects website: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects>

More information about the project is also available on the WaterNSW website:

<https://www.watensw.com.au/projects/new-dams-for-nsw/mole-river-dam>