

# Plans to replace damaged Gin Gin Weir with modern design



Over the coming weeks, look out for weekly updates on the Macquarie River Re-regulating Storage Project.

## Why are we completing comprehensive environmental assessments and how is the project being assessed?

WaterNSW is planning to replace the century-old Gin Gin Weir with a 21st century, modern gated weir and fishway, designed to improve water security and reliability to benefit all water users, including the environment. Due to the size of the project and investment needed to replace the existing weir, the project has been classed as State Significant Infrastructure. As such, a comprehensive assessment process is required involving an Environmental Impact Statement to understand and minimise impacts.

For a robust assessment process, our project objectives align with the NSW Government's *Macquarie-Castlereagh Regional Water Strategy*. The strategy is under development and identifies policy, planning and infrastructure options that will deliver resilient water resources for all water users in the Macquarie Valley.

### The project objectives are to



Investigate and progress with an advanced infrastructure option on behalf of the NSW Government to improve long-term water security in the Macquarie Valley



Enable increased prosperity for communities and industries by improving water delivery reliability and resilience to climatic conditions



Support the long-term health of the environment with flexible and responsive water management



Incorporate inputs from stakeholders into the final proposal.

As part of the **preliminary planning phase**, a number of sites between Narromine and Warren were investigated. During the options assessment, we considered potential impacts on biodiversity, Aboriginal heritage, flexibility in operation, flooding and cost effectiveness. The replacement of Gin Gin Weir was identified as the preferred option due to its lower impacts and higher benefits.

We have completed the preliminary assessments including geotechnical studies, hydrological modelling and Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment to inform the Final Business Case.

The Final Business Case will capture the reasoning for the project and present the potential benefits, costs and associated risks so the NSW Government has the information it needs to make an investment decision.

Following the investment decision, assessments will continue to inform the **Environmental Impact Statement**. Further assessments will include hydrological, environmental, cultural and socioeconomic feasibility studies, and further consultation. Before the new weir can be constructed, the project needs to secure all the necessary planning approvals and deliver the Environmental Impact Statement for community comment. Community and stakeholder engagement will continue to inform the proposal.

### How to get involved and keep up to date

Thank you to the community and stakeholders who have continued to assist us in providing feedback on the proposal. While our preference is to meet face-to-face, your participation using digital online methods has enabled us to work together while keeping the community safe during COVID-19.

### What are the project phases?

2018 - 2019	Strategic Business Case
Mid 2019	Preliminary planning and investigations commenced
Oct 2020	Final Business Case due to the NSW Government
Early 2021	Project investment and Final Business Case decision due
Mid-late 2021	Environmental Impact Statement due to the NSW Government

ONGOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WE ARE HERE

#### Facebook digital live sessions

WaterNSW hosted a number of live digital information sessions on Facebook to update the local community on the project. These sessions were recorded and are available on our webpage or in the Facebook group.

To know more, please visit [waternsw.com.au/mrrrs](http://waternsw.com.au/mrrrs) or join our Facebook community at [facebook.com/groups/MRRRS/](https://facebook.com/groups/MRRRS/)

Photo above: concept design for new modern gated weir and fishway to be located 200 metres downstream of the existing Gin Gin Weir.

### Contact us

#### To know more about the project

Visit us online [www.waternsw.com.au/mrrrs](http://www.waternsw.com.au/mrrrs)

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

#### To receive project updates or provide feedback

Email us at [MRRRS@waternsw.com.au](mailto:MRRRS@waternsw.com.au)

Call us on 1300 662 077

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