

# Lachlan Valley

## Lake Rowlands Dam to Carcoar Dam Pipeline

April 2020



Photo: Carcoar Dam

### Project background

WaterNSW has been engaged by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment to prepare a Final Business Case to explore the option of building a two-way water transfer pipeline from the Central Tablelands Water-operated Lake Rowlands Dam to the larger WaterNSW-operated Carcoar Dam.

This is in line with the strategic objectives set by the NSW Government for the Lachlan Regional Water Strategy. The Final Business Case for the Lake Rowlands to Carcoar pipeline will allow for a more efficient storage of the available water resource to achieve long-term water security objectives.

### Engagement to date

Informing and consulting stakeholders has been a key goal for the project. Hearing from stakeholders has been important, and feedback received from all stakeholders and the community will inform the development of the Final Business Case. Our engagement has included:



Meetings with individual landholders and targeted stakeholders



Community Information Session held in Blayney in December 2019



Introduction of digital engagement platforms for online meetings and information sessions due to the outbreak of COVID-19



Phone calls and emails



Dedicated web page and Facebook page

### Ongoing community engagement

- Due to the unprecedented outbreak of COVID-19, face-to-face engagement activities for this project have been postponed and replaced with online sessions.
- We are committed to ongoing consultation with the stakeholders and communities in the Lachlan Valley, and want to ensure that any information and feedback should be easily distributed, accessible and reliable.
- WaterNSW are using alternative methods (e.g. digital technologies) to facilitate these sessions to remove the need for physical contact and therefore comply with the social distancing requirements that have been set by the Australian Government.

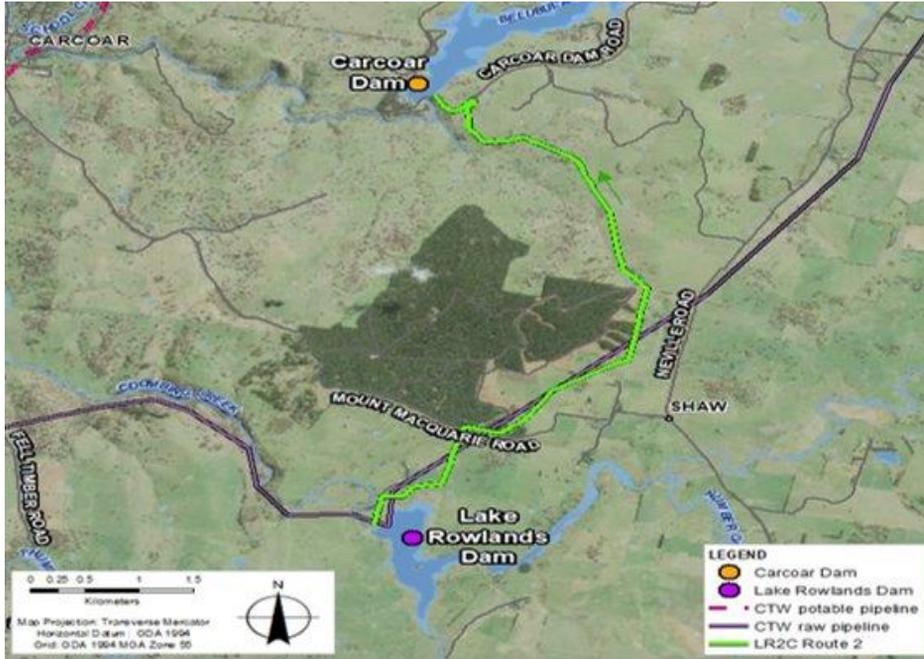
### Project benefits

- Achieving long-term water security strategic objectives in the Belubula Valley.
- Support the future security of urban water in the Lachlan and Central West regions.
- Security of urban water and rural water supply.
- Maximise available water for general security customers and environment within the sustainable diversion limits set under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

## Modelling update

Modelling work continues to analyse potential pipeline sizing, pumping rates and long-term benefits for the system. This takes into account that water would only be transferred from Lake Rowlands when the dam is spilling and there is adequate storage and water supply levels available at both Lake Rowlands dam and Carcoar dam.

These studies include looking at how the pipeline can also transfer water back from Carcoar Dam to the urban water supply network operated by Central Tablelands Water. The modelling will help to inform an assessment of costs and benefits to stakeholders including users in the Lachlan and Belubula Valleys and urban water users in the Lachlan and Central West Regions.



## Environmental update

The project team has been assessing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed pipeline and collecting feedback from key stakeholders and landholders in the Lachlan and Belubula valleys. Modelling is now underway to provide further detailed assessments of potential impacts to river flows downstream of the dams, and within the reservoirs.

These studies will be completed to inform the Final Business Case, including the results of the predictive modelling. Potential water quality impacts downstream of the dams and within the reservoirs will also be assessed. A Review of Environmental Factors will document any impacts to the environment, and include the assessment of the significance of these impacts.

## Lake Rowlands Dam to Carcoar Dam Pipeline Schedule



## Get in touch

It is important for us to understand the needs and concerns of the community and stakeholders to develop the Final Business Case. Please get in contact with us if you have any questions or feedback in relation to this project.

Call us on **1300 662 077**

Visit us at **waternsw.com.au**

Email us at **R2C@waternsw.com.au**

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