

Chaffey Dam Pipeline

Environmental Impact Assessment –
Future pipeline operations and maintenance

August 2022

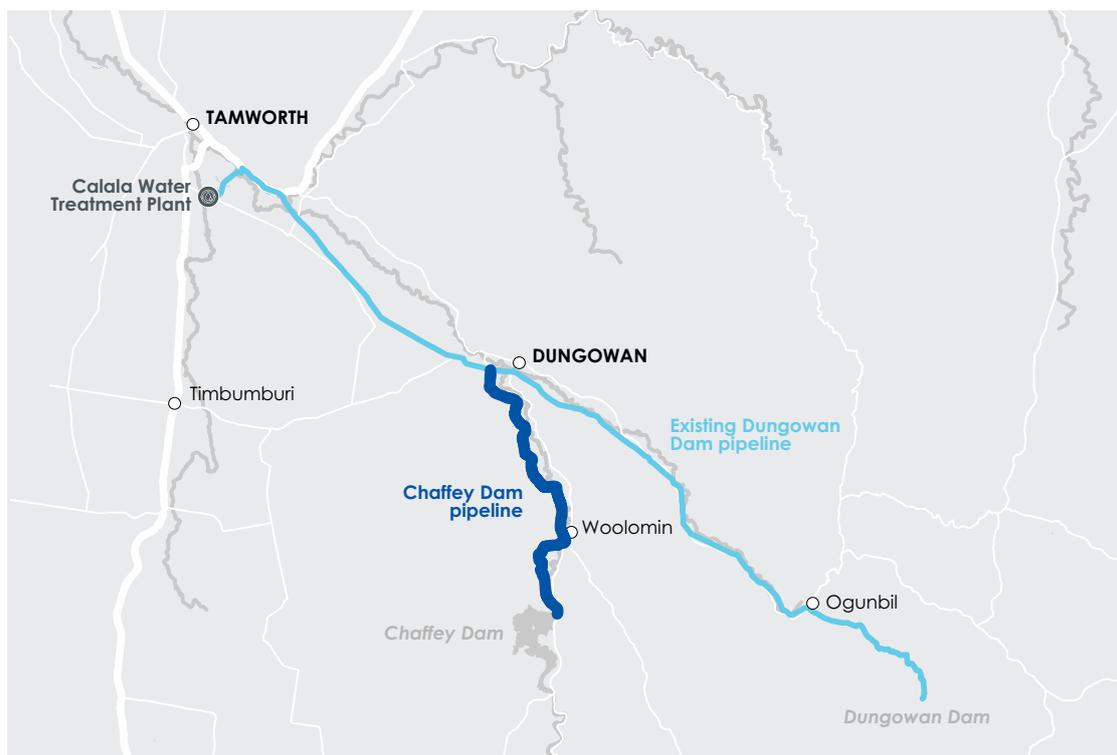


About the Chaffey Dam Pipeline

In 2020, WaterNSW obtained authorisation to construct the Chaffey Dam Pipeline and temporarily operate the pipeline as an emergency response to severe drought conditions. It provided critical water supply to the people of Tamworth for approximately six weeks from June 2020.

The authorisation to construct the pipeline was granted by the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, under the NSW *Water Supply (Critical Needs) Act 2019*. Temporary operations were approved under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (referral 2019/8590).

The 18-kilometre, underground Chaffey Dam Pipeline extends from Chaffey Dam, which is on the Peel River, along West Bank and Back Woolomin Roads, between Bowling Alley Point and Dungowan NSW. It includes a pump station and maintenance pits. The Chaffey Dam Pipeline connects to the underground Dungowan Pipeline, which extends to Tamworth's Calala Water Treatment Plant.



Assessment and approval process

The temporary authorisation to operate the pipeline has now expired. WaterNSW is seeking permanent approval to operate the Chaffey Dam Pipeline, during drought periods (ie when Chaffey Dam falls below 20% capacity) to supply water to Tamworth, instead of using river water. Approval is also being sought to continue to undertake maintenance and testing works.

This will involve preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as part of identifying and assessing in detail, the operational impacts of the pipeline. The EIS will include mitigation and management measures for any identified impacts, under a number of future climate scenarios.

The pipeline is being assessed as State Significant Infrastructure, under Part 2.13 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021 (the Planning Systems SEPP), and approval is required under Part 5, Division 5.2, of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

A Scoping Report for the project was submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment in July 2022, seeking the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

To view the Scoping Report and SEARs, go to: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/chaffey-dam-pipeline-project>

WaterNSW has engaged EMM Consulting Pty Limited to undertake the environmental, social and other technical studies required and prepare the EIS. The technical studies and assessments required to be undertaken, as part of preparing the EIS, will include:



The pipeline may also require approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) due to potential impacts to Commonwealth Matters of National Environmental Significance. A referral was submitted in August 2022, to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). If DCCEEW determine the project to be a Controlled Action, approval under the EPBC Act will be required.

Project Timeline

PHASE 1: SCOPING

- ✓ **July 2022**
Submitted Scoping Report
- ✓ **August 2022**
Submitted DCCEEW referral

● **August 2022**
Community information sessions

- **September 2022**
Receipt of SEARs

PHASE 2: EIS DEVELOPMENT

○ **Starts September 2022**
Technical studies and assessments

○ **November 2022**
Community information sessions

PHASE 3: EIS PUBLIC EXHIBITION PERIOD (28 days)

○ **March 2023**
EIS Public exhibition period

NB: Project timeframes are subject to change, pending NSW Government assessment and approval timeframes.

Community information sessions

WaterNSW will continue to consult nearby landowners and the community, as part of preparing the EIS. Community feedback is an important part of the impact assessment process. Two community information sessions are being held on **Wednesday 31 August 2022**, one online and one in-person:

Session 1: Drop-in session

Date Wednesday 31
August 2022

Time Any time between
8 – 11am

Venue Dungowan Hall,
Ogunbil Rd
DUNGOWAN NSW

Session 2: Online

Date Wednesday 31
August 2022

Time 4 – 6pm

Please register to attend the community information sessions via: <https://forms.office.com/r/d9TVsE0Qmi> or scan the QR code.



Social impact assessment

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will include targeted stakeholder interviews and a survey, to better understand the social impacts and benefits of the pipeline. Hard copies of the SIA survey will be available at the in-person community information session and can be completed online. Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3YXXC2N> or scan the QR code.



Contact us

For more information about the Chaffey Dam Pipeline EIS, please contact the project team or visit the WaterNSW website:

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WaterNSW supply and seek to improve availability of water that is essential for water users and communities throughout NSW.