

# Peel Valley

## Emergency drought works

December 2019



Peel River, Tamworth

WaterNSW and our contractor, MPC Kinetic are progressing works for Stage 1 and Stage 2 Peel Valley emergency drought projects. These works are part of a range of short and long term water security strategies to extend essential town water supply for critical human needs to Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal as severe drought conditions continue.

### Stage 1: Temporary weir and pipeline on Peel River at Dungowan Village - complete

Stage 1 temporary weir and pipeline have now been installed and are redirecting water from the Peel River at the Dungowan Village into the existing Tamworth water supply system. The temporary measures are reducing transmission losses from water travelling via the Peel River to Tamworth and will assist with extending supply for four months while the permanent pipeline is being constructed.

**Flows in the Peel River downstream of Dungowan Village have now ceased** as water is directed into the Tamworth water supply system. Pulse releases will be required at times to maintain water quality in downstream pools along the Peel River, including below Dungowan.

The temporary weir will remain in place until either:

- Stage 2: permanent pipeline project is installed and operational (expected March 2020) or
- Chaffey Dam has more than two years supply in storage.

All works will be in accordance with planning and environmental laws and approvals.

WaterNSW continues to work closely with Tamworth Regional Council, Dept Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (Water), Dept of Primary Industries (Fisheries) during these works.

### For more information on water supply options:

Department Planning Industry and Environment (Water )

**P:** 02 9338 6600

**E:** [water.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

**W:** [industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

### Assisting with water monitoring under drought conditions

WaterNSW will be monitoring and testing water quality in the Peel River. This monitoring will provide an early warning of deterioration of water quality. NSW DPI Fisheries have identified key refuge sites and have already begun to remove brood stock of some native species so that they can be reintroduced when the drought breaks. We are also working with local landowners at key sites to install aerator units to enhance water quality.

To report issues relating to fish and wildlife, call DPI Fisheries on 1800 043 536 .

## Stage 2: Permanent pipeline from Chaffey Dam to existing Tamworth water supply

Stage 2 forms the long-term water security solution and involves constructing a new permanent underground pipeline from Chaffey Dam to Dungowan Village along West Bank Road and Back Woolomin Road, where it will connect to the existing Tamworth town water supply system.

The permanent pipeline will eliminate the significant losses along the Peel river due to evaporation and seepage which are at a peak in summer conditions. It will also conserve the remaining storage in Chaffey Dam, prolonging long-term water supply for critical human needs for Tamworth.

### When will construction start?

Final planning and environmental approvals for Stage 2 are being completed.

Construction of the underground pipeline is expected to start from early December 2019.

### When will the pipeline be in operation?

The pipeline is expected to be operational by end March 2020.



Back Woolomin Road

### What will happen during construction?

During construction, traffic management and detours will be in place to ensure safety around the construction sites, including:

- **Road closures at Back Woolomin Road and West Bank Road.** These roads will be open to local traffic only, including the school bus. All other traffic will be redirected to Nundle Road
- **Reduced speed limits along Back Woolomin Road and West Bank Road.**

Dust suppression measures will be in place for health and safety purposes. The watering down of the site will only occur within the immediate construction area to help conserve water.

Minor tree trimming may be required to allow safe access during construction of the permanent pipeline.

During the works there will be large vehicle movements and construction noise. Due to the critical requirements of the project, we will need to extend our work hours.

We are working closely with landowners to discuss and mitigate any potential impacts. The majority of construction will be in the road verge, reducing impacts to private property.

### Project funding

This project was included in a NSW Government announcement of \$5.3 million in water security projects to extend essential town supply to Tamworth.

\$3.4 million has been allocated to implement short-term works to reduce transmission losses from water travelling via the Peel River to Tamworth, including utilising the existing Dungowan to Tamworth pipeline.

Almost \$2 million will be used to plan for a long-term water security solution for Tamworth involving a proposed pipeline from Chaffey Dam to the existing Dungowan to Tamworth pipeline to drought-proof the city against future severe drought events.



## Technical facts

Permanent pipeline:

- will be constructed about 2 m underground
- Size of the pipe –
  - 605 mm internal diameter
  - 710 mm external diameter
- Made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
- About 19 km in length
- Design life is 100 years

Ground level air vents will be installed every 600-800 m along the pipeline route

WaterNSW, in close consultation with Tamworth Regional Council, has designed the pipeline to meet current and future demand.

## Next steps

A final decision to proceed with a temporary weir at Jewry Street will be made in February 2020.

Our next community information sessions are being planned for late February or early March 2020. We will advertise the dates early in the new year.

All works will be in accordance with relevant planning and environmental laws and approvals.



## Peel Valley Drought Works Schedule



### Thank you

We would like to thank you, the community, for your assistance and for working closely with us during these challenging times.

We would also like to thank the local media for their support in working with us to keep the community informed.

Since July 2019,

- Over 300 people have attended one of our six information sessions held at Dungowan and Tamworth
- we have sent 18 notifications to a distribution list of over 600 people,
- 1122 have visited the Peel Valley webpage ,
- 56 have joined our Facebook page, and
- dozens of media stories on radio and in print have been released.

To join us at the next information session or register your details to receive email updates or Facebook posts, see below 'Keep in touch' for more information

We appreciate your interest with our works and will continue to keep you up to date as we progress.

### For information on support programs:

- NSW Government's Emergency Drought Relief Package: [dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/droughthub)
- The Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme (DCP) [regional.gov.au/regional/programs/drought-communities.aspx](http://regional.gov.au/regional/programs/drought-communities.aspx)
- The Safe and Secure Water Program (SSWP): [industry.nsw.gov.au/water/water-utilities/infrastructure-programs/safe-and-secure-water-program/about](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/water/water-utilities/infrastructure-programs/safe-and-secure-water-program/about)
- For information on mental health and welfare concerns, contact Lifeline, The Salvation Army, Beyond Blue and St Vincent de Paul Society

Call us on 1300 662 077

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

Visit us at [waternsw.com.au/peelvalley](http://waternsw.com.au/peelvalley)

Follow us on Twitter @WaterNSW

Join our Peel Valley Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/WaterNSWPeelRiver](https://facebook.com/groups/WaterNSWPeelRiver)

**Join our Early Warning Network (EWN)**

phone 1300 662 077 or email

[Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au](mailto:Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au)