

# Peel Valley

## Emergency drought works

September/October 2019



Photo: Peel River, Tamworth. WaterNSW

In June 2019, the NSW Government announced a range of water security projects to extend essential town water supply to Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal.

There have been unprecedented low inflows into the region's dams, including Chaffey Dam which supplies Tamworth. These emergency drought response works will be undertaken by WaterNSW in an effort to ensure Tamworth does not run out of water should the severe drought conditions continue into 2020.

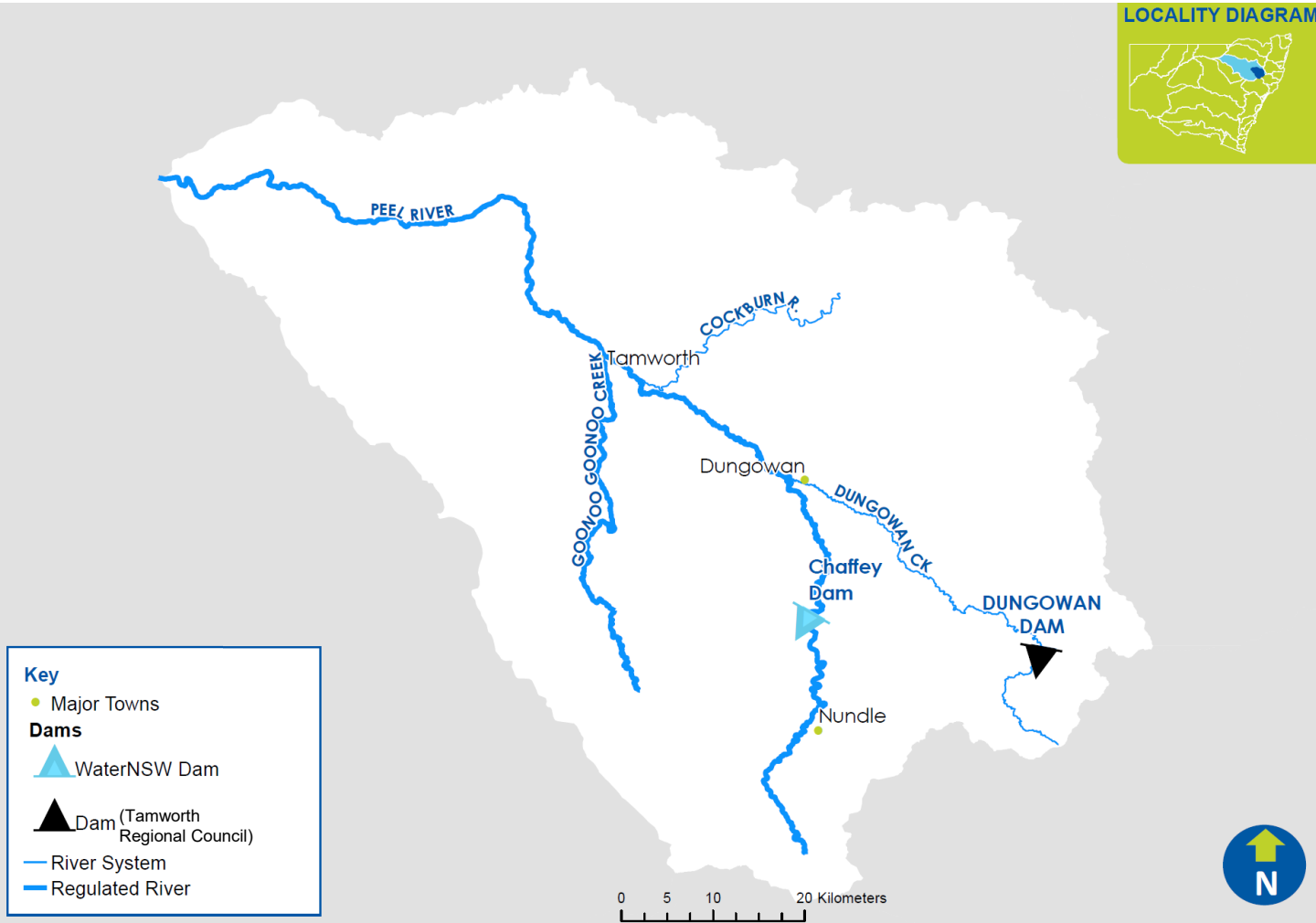
WaterNSW will undertake both short and long-term projects to secure water for critical human needs, including:

- **Short-term works** will include a temporary weir on the Peel River at Dungowan Village where water will be redirected into the Tamworth Water Supply System via an existing Dungowan to Tamworth pipeline. These works will reduce transmission losses from water travelling via the Peel River to Tamworth.
- **A long-term water security solution** for Tamworth. A new permanent pipeline will be constructed from Chaffey Dam to Dungowan Village, where it will connect to the existing Tamworth town water supply. This 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.

**Peel River downstream of Dungowan Village is expected to cease to flow from 30 November 2019.**

### Key facts

- The Peel River is in Stage 4 drought, with a critical water shortage. WaterNSW is focussed on securing water for critical human needs.
- Emergency works are being undertaken to ensure Tamworth does not run out of water should the severe drought conditions continue into 2020.
- WaterNSW and Tamworth Regional Council are working together to extend water supply to Tamworth, Moonbi and Kootingal during this drought period. We are also committed to keeping you up to date on these projects with information and advice for landowners along the Peel River.



Works to extend water supply for critical human needs

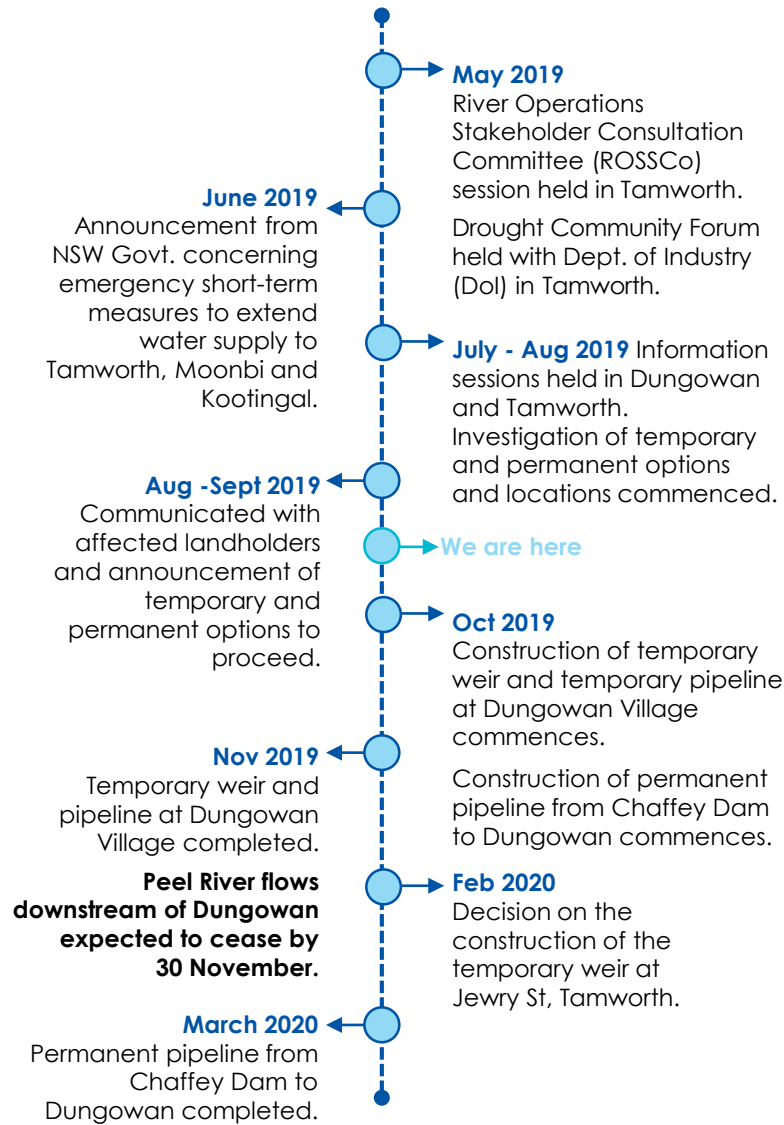
Works are being prioritised in stages and will involve:

- Installing a temporary weir and temporary pipeline at Dungowan Village to redirect flows to the Tamworth water supply system. This will assist with maintaining supply for four months while the permanent pipeline is being constructed.
- Constructing a permanent pipeline from Chaffey Dam to Dungowan.
- Removing the temporary weir and temporary pipeline at Dungowan Village when the permanent pipeline becomes operational.

Planning for a temporary weir at Jewry Street in Tamworth will also continue. A final decision to proceed with this option will be made in February 2020 as all resources will be dedicated to constructing the temporary weir at Dungowan Village and the new permanent pipeline from Chaffey Dam to Dungowan. Installing a temporary weir at Jewry Street will enable any tributary inflows from Goonoo Goonoo Creek to be captured, increasing the pool size of water at this location for potential extraction should the severe drought conditions continue.

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

Peel Valley Drought Works Schedule



Expected impacts

River flows in the Peel River downstream of Dungowan are expected to cease from 30 November 2019 following the installation of the temporary weir at Dungowan Village.

When the permanent pipeline is constructed and operational, releases from Chaffey Dam to the Peel River will be made in accordance with the Peel Valley Water Sharing Plan.

Where river flows have ceased, pools within the river bed may remain for varying periods of time, depending on the size and depth of those pools.

As the drought continues, critical human needs will remain the top priority.

- We will also be;
- Assisting DPI Fisheries with monitoring priority refuge water holes and,
  - monitoring water quality
- To report issues relating to fish and wildlife, call DPI Fisheries on 1800 043 536 .

Information sessions

Sessions will provide details on:

- Final pipeline route and construction timetable
- Progress on the planning and construction of the Dungowan temporary weir
- Possible options for alternate domestic water supply for affected landholders
- Latest drought outlook.

Monday 14 October – Dungowan

1	Dungowan Village / Recreation Grounds (Duri-Dungowan Rd)	4 – 5:30 pm	Project update and site walk of the temporary weir location
2	Dungowan Hotel (1572 Dungowan Rd)	7 – 8:30 pm	Project update

Tuesday 15 October – Tamworth

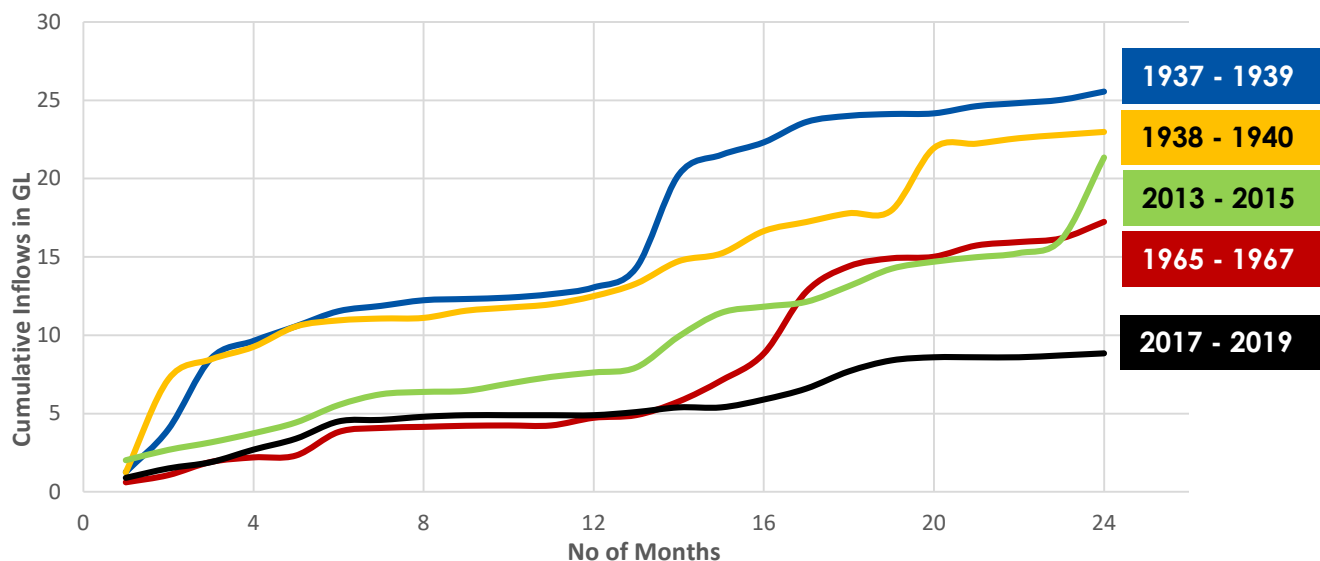
3	Tamworth Community Hall (3A Darling St)	7 – 8:30 pm	Project update
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To join us at one of the information sessions, register by email [waternsw.droughtresponse@waternsw.com.au](mailto:waternsw.droughtresponse@waternsw.com.au) or call 1300 662 077

## How does our current situation compare to previous drought conditions?

### Comparison of inflows into Chaffey Dam during drought conditions

24 months from July - June



### For more information:

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

 Subscribe to us at [waternsw.com.au/subscribe](http://waternsw.com.au/subscribe)

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

 Register for one of the information sessions **call 1300 662 077 or email (see overleaf)**

### Join our Early Warning Network (EWN)

phone 1300 662 077 or email [Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au](mailto:Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au)

### For information on support programs:

- NSW Government's [Emergency Drought Relief Package](#)
- The Federal Government's [Drought Communities Programme \(DCP\)](#)
- [The Safe and Secure Water Program \(SSWP\)](#)
- For information on mental health and welfare concerns, contact Lifeline, The Salvation Army, Beyond Blue and St Vincent de Paul Society

### Keep in touch:

 Call us on **1300 662 077**

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

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