



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
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MEDIA RELEASE

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APPROVAL FOR \$54 MILLION WATER PIPELINE

The construction and operation of an 81 kilometre water pipeline to supplement Goulburn's water supply has been approved by the NSW Government.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the \$54 million Highlands Source Project, proposed by Goulburn Mulwaree Council, has been approved after a rigorous assessment.

"This project, which is expected to take around 18 months to complete, will employ 60 people during construction," the Minister said.

"The pipeline will transfer up to 5 megalitres of water a day from Wingecarribee Reservoir, near Moss Vale, to the Goulburn water supply system at the Rossi Weir rising main, which feeds the Goulburn Water Treatment Plant.

"The pipeline will pass through a number of communities including Glenquarry, Werai, Sutton Forest, Exeter, Paddys River, Marulan, Towrang, Murrays Flats and Goulburn."

Goulburn's water supply reached critically low levels during prolonged drought conditions from 2001 to 2007 and while dam storage levels increased in 2007, they have fluctuated since and remain significantly below 100 per cent capacity.

Mr Kelly said Goulburn is strategically located in the Sydney-Canberra Corridor and its population is forecast to grow in the coming years.

"It is an important regional centre in NSW and it is crucial steps are taken to secure a reliable water supply to service Goulburn's existing residents, businesses and farming activities, in addition to the many new residents who will settle there as the city expands," the Minister said.

"The project is consistent with the National Water Initiative, which is focused on relieving pressure on over-allocated or stressed water systems and meeting urban water demands."

The project was assessed as a major project under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and the public was given more than a month to comment on the proposal.

The proponent's submissions report was also placed on the Department's website from mid August, providing further opportunity for public review and comment.

A total of 57 conditions have been imposed on the project requiring the proponent to:

- Rehabilitate the disturbed land after construction;
- Prepare a community information plan to outline communication and consultation with the public construction and operation of the pipeline, in relation to issues such traffic impacts, safety of livestock and noise;
- Determine the lowest-risk method of crossing each of the 130 waterways along the pipeline route to minimise erosion, the impact on vegetation and stability of the waterway; and
- Prepare statements of significance and statements of heritage impact for state heritage listed Kenmore Psychiatric Hospital and veteran allotments on Wollondilly River at Murrays Flat.