Chaffey Dam upgrade to improve flood safety and water security

The approval of the Chaffey Dam project will improve safety and better secure water supply for farmers and residents in the Tamworth area, Planning and Infrastructure said today.

Chaffey Dam supplies local drinking water to Tamworth area residents and is an important irrigation source in the Peel Valley.

Construction of the $43.3 million upgrade will generate approximately 50 jobs, and will involve increasing water storage capacity and reservoir size, and raising the existing dam wall and spillway.

The safety upgrade will bring it in line with contemporary standards, Planning and Infrastructure Executive Director Chris Wilson said.

“Approval of the upgrade will mean that following construction water allocations for farmers will be more reliable and there should be less water restrictions for residents,” Mr Wilson said.

“The Tamworth area will also be better equipped to deal with drought.”

Features of the upgrade include:

- Raising the existing dam wall and spillway by 6.5 metres
- A 61 per cent increase in storage capacity from 62,000ML to 100,000ML.

“We addressed environmental concerns directly by working with State Water to change the construction method and subsequent clearing.” Mr Wilson said.

The Commonwealth Department of Environment is currently considering the project under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.


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