Friday 17 July 2015

Approval to upgrade water treatment plant at Wagga Wagga

An application to upgrade the water treatment plant at Wagga Wagga has been approved by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, subject to conditions.

The applicant – Riverina Water County Council – proposes to build the new upgraded plant within the boundary of the existing plant off the Sturt Highway (Hammond Avenue).

A departmental spokesperson said the existing plant was built in stages between the 1930s and 1960s and much of the existing infrastructure is nearing the end of its serviceable life.

“The new plant will provide greater capacity for water treatment and improved drinking water quality for local people. Water not being as clear as it could be following heavy rain in the Murrumbidgee is an issue and this new plant will provide improved water quality,” the spokesperson said.

The proposal and its Environmental Impact Statement were exhibited for community and stakeholder feedback earlier this year.

The application has been approved with conditions, including major flood control management, aquatic protection and construction restrictions.

“These include biodiversity safeguards to protect the nearby colony of some 350 grey-headed flying foxes, which is vulnerable to disturbance during the breeding season,” the spokesperson said.

“The conditions include management of the impact on the flying foxes as well as a requirement for construction on the water intake to be carried out – to the greatest extent practicable - during winter months (April-October), which is the flying foxes non-breeding season and a period when they are largely absent,” the spokesperson said.

The project will create 160 construction jobs.

Media contact: 9228-6128