



CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE COUNCIL

27 November 2024

Media Release

Wilcannia Weir update

In a report to the November Council Meeting an update on the Wilcannia Weir was provided. The project has been the subject of community anxiety since plans to redesign the weir were announced early in the year. Since then, the Water Minister, Rose Jackson, has visited Wilcannia and a review panel appointed.

Central Darling Shire Council believes that the Department of Planning and Environment (Water) should not be condemning the original weir design until questions have been addressed and there is further consultation with the Wilcannia Community as to why the original design is no longer feasible.

The community has been waiting almost 50 years for a new weir to give long-term water security. It is a priority project for Council and the community. In a report to the February 2024 Council Meeting the General Manager outlined serious concerns about the status of the project specifically the implications as a result of DPIE proposing to redesign the weir. This was despite the community adopting the weir design in 2022 after significant consultation.

In October this year the NSW Water Minister, Rose Jackson announced the appointment of the Independent Review Panel who are looking into the project. The panel comprise of Geoff Wise, James McTavish, Stuart Khan, and observer from the Murray Darling Basin Authority (Jacqui Hickey).

The panel visited Wilcannia Sunday 10 November. Panel members viewed the proposed location for the new weir, as also visited numerous sites of interest. The following day, the panel met with key stakeholder groups and later met with the community.

The key stakeholder group told the panel members that the outstanding questions relating to the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the original proposed weir consultation with state government agencies still had not been addressed.

The independent panel is expected to report back to the Minister either the first or second quarter of 2025.

Ends

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