



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Water plans flow

- Highlands Source Project update -

Goulburn Mulwaree Council is moving ahead with the Highlands Source Project, an initiative designed to provide long term water security for the City. The project will see Goulburn linked to the Sydney Catchment Authority water supply via a pipeline from Wingecarribee Reservoir to Goulburn.

A contract for project management and design services should be awarded in August 2009. Six companies are expected to lodge detailed proposals for this component of the project after being short listed through an expression of interest process last year.

An Extraordinary Council Meeting will be held in late July or early August to consider the proposals received.

Goulburn Mulwaree Mayor Carol James said the pre construction stage was well underway.

"Council staff are working on a range of planning work to see the Highlands Source Project completed as soon as possible," Cr James said.

Project Manager Grant Moller said project management and design was a vital aspect of the project.

"Signing off on the project management and design contract is vital to us continuing progress on securing Goulburn's water supply," Mr Moller said.

"Once the successful company is on board we will refine the overall schedule and start work on geotechnical reports and surveys. Engagements have also been made for a Cultural Heritage Assessment and Preliminary Environmental Assessment (Flora and Fauna). All of this work must be completed before the Major Project Application can be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning.

"We are moving ahead with the pre-construction stage with the aim of having water flowing to Goulburn in mid to late 2011," Mr Moller said.

"However, it's important to note that after the pre-construction stage, Council will have a more accurate estimate of costs and can resolve to halt work if required."

External funding of up to \$40 million is available for the project, which is comprised of up to \$20 million each from the State and Federal Governments.

The need to expedite the project was confirmed recently in a letter from NSW Minister for Water Phillip Costa. Mr Costa highlighted the need for pre-construction work on the pipeline to be undertaken in parallel with the completion of Goulburn Mulwaree Council's Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Strategy.

"I understand that Goulburn's water storages are once again falling and are only just over 50 percent, and for this reason, it is considered that Council should progress the construction activities for the pipeline without further delay," Mr Costa stated.

Goulburn's IWCM Strategy will outline the best methods of managing Goulburn's water supply to 2040. Mr Costa has also confirmed a grant of up to \$16,031 from the NSW Government's Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program to subsidise an IWCM Evaluation Study.

On June 14 2009, Goulburn's usable water storages were at 46.1 percent. The 'waterwise' Goulburn community continues to use less than the target daily consumption of 7.8ML a day under Level 3 restrictions.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS: Contact Project Manager Grant Moller on 4823 4526.

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Goulburn Mulwaree Council Water Engineers Marina Hollands and Grant Moller are working on the pre construction stage of the Highlands Source Project.