

Parkes Water Security Program

January 2025 Project Update

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Parkes Water Security Program reached a significant milestone in December 2024, with the completion of all Building Better Regions Funded projects.

This includes the finalisation of the Raw Water Storage Lagoon (RWSL), which has recently been hydro-mulched to stabilise the batters via revegetation. The RWSL is now full, with the capability of storing an additional 24 hours worth of raw water which gravity feeds into the water treatment plant (WTP). Securing this water means Parkes is more resilient during contingency events such as infrastructure failure and emergencies. The completion of the RWSL also means that the public walking track behind the WTP is now accessible to the community.



Figure 1: The RWSL has been completed, following the application of hydro-mulching around the batters of the lagoon.

In Forbes, the BBRF-funded projects at the Lachlan River Precinct (LRP) have also been finalised. Highlights include:

- Augmentation of the Lachlan River Pump Station, increasing its capacity to extract **56% more water** from the Lachlan River.
- Completion of a **1 km pipeline** connecting the LRP to the Eugowra Road Pumping Station. This pipeline marks the first stage of the Lachlan Pipeline Duplication—a 40 km pipeline linking the Parkes WTP to the LRP.
- Installation of a new **260-watt solar array**, supplemented with batteries and additional solar infrastructure, to power the upgraded Lachlan River Pump Station sustainably.

These projects significantly enhance water security, sustainability, and community infrastructure in Parkes and Forbes, ensuring long-term benefits for residents and the region.



Figure 2: The batteries and inverters for the solar array have been installed at the Lachlan River Precinct.