

Parkes Water Security Program

August 2024 Project Update

MAJOR UPDATES

The Parkes Water Security Program has significantly progressed in the first half of 2024. The Q1 of 2024 saw the completion of the first suite of works, including:

- Refurbishment of four existing bores, featuring upgrades to electronics, flow meters and telemetry;
- Construction of a new pipeline and underbore at the Eugowra Rd Pump Station and
- Construction of the Lachlan River Precinct building at Council's property at Tallawallah, Forbes.

These works were funded by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), Restart NSW and Parkes Shire Council (PSC).

By mid-2024, the augmentation of the Lachlan River pump station was completed. These developments will significantly boost the intake capacity from the Lachlan River. Upgrades included:

- New pumps and pipework
- Replacement of the pump station river intake screen
- Two net wet well pumps
- A larger lid to the pump station wet well to accommodate the new pumps and
- A new McBerns-style safety fence at the entry to the pump station wet well.



Augmentation of the Lachlan River Pump Station.

This project was made possible by funding secured through the Commonwealth Government's Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In early 2024, PSC began constructing a 20 mega-litre raw water storage lagoon (RWSL) at the Parkes Water Treatment Plant (WTP). To date, a local contractor has completed bulk excavation, embankment construction, stormwater diversion channels, and the installation of the lagoon liner. Once completed, the RWSL will secure approximately 24 hours of raw water supply, ensuring the WTP can meet potable water demands in the event of a utilities failure or other unexpected shortages. This also enhances operational flexibility and reduces the operational cost of running the WTP.



Installation of geofabric and liner on the RWSL floor at the Parkes WTP.

At the Lachlan River Precinct in Forbes Shire, environmental assessments for the pipeline and solar array have been completed. Service investigations



along The Escort Way for the proposed pipeline have been carried out, with construction of the solar pad set to commence in the coming weeks.

Council has also completed the procurement stage for the following packages:

- Eugowra Road Pump Station Solar System
- Raw Water Storage Lagoon SMP works
- Lachlan River Pre-treatment Plant to Reservoir 1A pipeline.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In the coming weeks, a local contractor is set to undertake the structural, mechanical and pipeline (SMP) work at the raw water storage lagoon (RWSL). Concurrently, at the Lachlan River Precinct, work is set to commence on several projects: the construction of a solar array pad and installation of a photovoltaic system, the construction of a pipeline from the precinct to the underbores and along The Escort Way to Council's nearby reservoirs, and upgrades to the entrance to the precinct from The Escort Way. Finally, Council is in the process of finalising a bore licencing application with the DCCEEW.



Top left: An aerial image of the LRP site at the location of the upcoming pipeline works; Top right: the completed LRP building; Bottom: A birdseye view of the raw water storage lagoon at the Parkes WTP.