

Water engagement

Past stakeholder and community engagement activities from January to December 2024

Water is one of our most valuable natural assets. The department has a responsibility to the people of NSW to ensure that our water is managed equitably and transparently now and into the future. Our stakeholders are those groups and individuals who could be affected by our activities.

We regularly create opportunities to hear from and meet with our stakeholders to build shared understanding, hear insights on water matters, and to provide input on policies, plans, and other relevant documents. Our [engagement policy](#) describes how we will complete this engagement.

An overview of our past meetings, exhibitions, and other public engagement activities is provided below. This is a snapshot of our activities at a point in time and updated quarterly.

To see our current engagements, please visit to [our website](#).

Key dates	Description	Location
16 December 2024	Murray Darling Basin Authority community consultation	Toorale
9 December – 2 February 2025	Identified wetlands in water sharing plans on public exhibition – webinar	Online
2 – 5 December	Bore Project sites, community meetings, site visit and survey with local Aboriginal groups	Wilcannia
28 November	Arakwal cultural water planning community meetings	Ballina
25 – 29 November	Cross agency conversation tour - Menindee, Pooncarie, Wentworth and Broken Hill	Various
20 November	Water engagement roundup webinar – Water year in review	Online
16-17 November	Reconnecting River Country community information stalls at Gundagai Producers Market and Narrandera Community Market	Gundagai and Narrandera

Key dates	Description	Location
14 November	IPART public hearings into bulk water pricing determinations by WAMC and WaterNSW	Online
13 – 15 November	Macquarie-Wambuul Water Security Project community meetings to explore ways to improve water reliability	Warren, Carinda and Dubbo
13 November	Murrumbidgee Floodplain Management Plan community consultation	Balranald
12 – 13 November	Public exhibition of the Yanco Creek Modernisation Project community drop-in session, public meetings in Conargo and Wanganella on 12 and 13 Nov	Wanganella and Conargo
11 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Belubula River Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Canowindra and online
11 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Barwon-Darling River Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Bourke and online
11 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Lachlan Unregulated River Water Source 2025, online and in-person community consultation	Crookwell, Cowra and online
11 November & 8 December	Public exhibition of the Water Management (General) Regulation 2018 amendments – webinars (21 Nov and 3 Dec)	Online
4 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Gwydir River Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Bingara and online
4 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Namoi and Peel Rivers Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Dungowan, Manilla and online
4 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Macquarie/Wambuul Bogan River Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Orange, Bathurst and online
4 November – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of the Murrumbidgee River Water Sharing Plan, online and in-person community consultation	Cooma, Griffith and online

Key dates	Description	Location
1 – 28 November	Public exhibition for Yanco Creek Modernisation Project Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed replacement of two regulators along Billabong Creek, Wanganella Weir and Hartwood Weir	Conargo and Wanganella
30 – 31 October	Public information sessions on status of the Reconnecting River Country Program in the Murrumbidgee	Wagga Wagga and Darlington Point
28 October – 10 January 2025	Public exhibition of Recycled Road Map, community information sessions – webinar 13 Nov	Online
19 – 20 October	Murrumbateman Field Days - community education and consultation opportunity	Murrumbateman
16 October	Water engagement roundup webinar – NSW water sharing plans, what they are and why we need them	Online
19 – 20 September	Snowy River and Snowy Montane River meetings with the local communities to discuss environmental water release programs	Dalgety, Bredbo
18 September	Water engagement roundup webinar – delivering on water infrastructure projects in the Riverina	Online
17 – 19 September	Henty Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Henty
16 September – 24 November	Public exhibition of the draft Landholder Negotiation Scheme, including various engagement online and in person at Moree, Wagga Wagga, Darlington Point and Deniliquin.	Various
12 September	Reconnecting River Country Program (RRCP) meetings with landholders, local Aboriginal Land Council	Hay
2 September, 9 – 12 September	Murrumbidgee Valley floodplain management plan stage 2 public exhibition online and public meetings	Darlington Point, Wagga Wagga
30 – 31 August	Agrishow Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Moss Vale

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26 – 27 August	Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations (NBAN) meeting with Weilmoringle community on site of damaged artifacts	Dunsandle
21 August	Water engagement roundup webinar – the department’s work under Hydrometric Networks and Remote Sensing Program	Online
21 August	Macquarie-Castlereagh regional water strategy Aboriginal community meeting	Dubbo, Trangie, Narromine
20 – 22 August	AgQuip Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Gunnedah
19 August – 29 September	Healthy Floodplains - draft Murrumbidgee Valley floodplain management plan on public exhibition	Online
15 – 28 August	Reconnecting River Country Program (RRCP) meetings with new Murrumbidgee landholders, local Aboriginal groups, including Werai Lands works updates in Deniliquin	Murrumbidgee region
13 – 14 August	NRAR Harvestable Rights education for drought resilience	Riverine Plains
6 August	NRAR education booth at Australian Cotton Conference 2024	Far North Coast
29 July – 1 August	Murray Darling Basin Authority listening tour along the Barwon-Darling, Wilcannia, Louth, Bourke, Narran Lakes and Moree.	Various
24 July	Floodplain Management Plans Billabong Creek Aboriginal community meeting	Deniliquin
23 July – 12 September	NSW Aboriginal Water Strategy public exhibition, including over 50 public meetings held in as many communities across NSW and online, to develop draft strategy principals and objectives	Various locations and online
17 July	Water engagement roundup webinar - NSW Water Allocations and consultation activities across NSW	Online
12 – 13 July	Mudgee Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Mudgee

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8 – 11 July	NRAR education booth at MDA National Conference	Tamworth
July – August	Reconnecting River Country Program public meetings on location and bridge, site visits with new landholders and local Aboriginal groups	Murrumbidgee, Cumeragunja, Deniliquin
27 – 28 June	Hunter Tidal Pool community meetings with water users, water licence holders and peak environmental organisations	Online
26 June	Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project - Hon. Rose Jackson MLC community meeting to discuss concerns for proposed new weir	Wilcannia
13 July – 21 August	Public exhibition of Bega Water Sources water sharing plan replacement, with an online public meeting - webinar	Bega, Towamba and online
24 June – 14 July	Hunter Water Regulation remake public exhibition open for 3 weeks, with an online public meeting by webinar	Online
19 – 20 June	Total Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Total
19 June	Water engagement roundup webinar - water compliance with the Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)	Online
13 – 17 June	Prospect Reservoir increasing recreational activities Phase 2 public and Aboriginal group meetings	Prospect Reservoir
10 – 30 June	Public exhibition of the Towamba River Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2023 water sharing plan remake and notification of changes to mandatory conditions	Towamba, online
5 – 13 June	Murray Valley Floodplain Management Plan public meetings held in Moama, Deniliquin, Barham, Moulamein and by webinar	Various locations and online
3 – 18 June	Draft NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee regional water strategies Aboriginal consultation held in Queanbeyan, Wentworth, Tumut, Coomealla, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Deniliquin and Albury	Various locations and online

Key dates	Description	Location
22 May – 14 July	Murray Regional Water Strategy public exhibition; community and stakeholder meetings in various locations Wagga Wagga, Griffith, Albury and Moulamein	Various locations and online
22 May – 14 July	Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategy public exhibition community and stakeholder meetings in various locations Queanbeyan, Wentworth, Tumut, Coomealla, Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Deniliquin and Albury	Various locations and online
20 May – 30 June	Murray Valley Floodplain Management Plan - Stage 1 public consultation on floodplain of central Murray, between Tocumwal and downstream of confluence with Murrumbidgee River	Online
16 – 18 May	Primex Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Casino
15 May	Water engagement roundup webinar - freshwater turtles of NSW and the significance of water management	Online
13 – 26 May	Greater Metropolitan Region Unregulated Water Sources 2023 water sharing plan mandatory conditions notification	Sydney region
10 – 11 May	Riverina Field Days – community education and consultation opportunity	Griffith
7 May	Fish Passage Reconnecting Northern Basin project public meetings to discuss Louth, Calmundi, and Banarway weir design	Louth
3 – 5 May	Total Field Days – community information stall for Lostock to Glennies Pipeline and Paterson River Connection project	Hunter region
30 April – 2 May	NRAR Stakeholder Education Event for West Hume Landcare in Bungowannah, Burrumbuttock and Corowa	Various
18 April	Eastern Recharge Groundwater Source meeting with local water users	North Star

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17 April – 7 July	Northern Basin Connectivity Expert Panel interim report public meetings to discuss their draft findings and recommendations	Online
17 April	Water engagement roundup webinar – consultation on water for fire preparedness and fire fighting	Online
9 April	Fish Passage Reconnecting Northern Basin project public meetings to discuss designs for Calmundi and Banarway weirs	Walgett and Collarenebri
2 – 11 April	Murrumbidgee Valley Floodplain Management - Stage 1 public consultation with landholders and stakeholders on the report in Hay, Balranald, Darlington point and Wagga Wagga	Various
April – June	Reconnecting River Country Program various community meetings at Lake Albert local markets, Charles Sturt University, discuss Niemur-Colligen early works and measures package	Wagga Wagga
28 March – 10 May	National Water Agreement public meetings on implementation in each state and territory, through 2004 National Water Initiative	Various
25 March – 17 May	Water for Bushfire Preparedness and Firefighting - public exhibition of proposed changes to improve access for landowners and industry stakeholders	Online
25 March – 5 May	Healthy Floodplains public meetings for Murrumbidgee Valley Floodplain Management Plan - Wagga Wagga, Balranald, Narrandera, Darlington Point and Hay	Various
20 March	Water engagement roundup webinar – NSW environmental water management and consultation activities across NSW	Online
26 and 27 March	Wilcannia Weir replacement project – public meetings on revised weir design and Environmental Impact Statement process	Wilcannia
14 March	Coastal community led public meeting to inform on water sharing rules and regulations around water take	Araluen

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14 March	Local Water Utility Regulatory and Assurance Framework meeting for water treatment and sewerage works - webinar	Online
6 and 7 March	Reconnecting Watercourse Country Program: Gingham, Lower Gwydir and Lower Mehi Rivers environmental water meetings	Riverina
5 and 8 March	Coastal Floodplain Drainage - public meetings on proposed options report, framework and water quality impacts - webinars	Online
24 – 28 February	Lostock to Glennies community meetings on project lifecycle, status and infrastructure corridor feedback channels	Maitland, Paterson Singleton
21 February	Water engagement roundup webinar – NSW water management, change and climate, and consultation activities across NSW	Online
19 February – 21 April	Coastal Floodplain Drainage Options report – public exhibition including targeted meetings and online information sessions	Online
19 February – 15 March	Reconnecting River Country Program - public meetings to discuss the next phase of Murrumbidgee with stakeholders	Murrumbidgee region
16 February – 7 April	Submissions open for role of the NSW Community representative on the Great Artesian Basin Stakeholder Advisory Committee	Advertisement and online
7, 14, 22 February	Snowy Water Licence Review public 10 year review meetings for environmental flow and water release investigations - webinars	Online
30 January – 2 February 2024	Commonwealth engagement on a new national agreement that builds on the 2004 National Water Initiative	Online
29 January – 5 February	Reconnecting River Country Program community meetings and general community surveys in Leeton, Narrandera, Narrandera, Griffith, Balranald, Wagga Wagga, Leeton, Hay and Gundagai	Various locations and online
22 – 24 January 2024	Northern Basin Toolkit, Fish Passage Project, street surveys on values and uses of weir sites in Goondiwindi, Mungindi, Bourke, Cobar and Moree	Various