

Implementation Plan for COAG Strategy on Water and Wastewater in Remote Communities – New South Wales

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON WATER FOR THE FUTURE

PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is created subject to the provisions of the *National Partnership Agreement on Water for the Future* and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in that Agreement is to secure water supplies and to assist with climate change adaptation.
2. A strategy on water and wastewater services in remote (including Indigenous) communities has been developed by relevant jurisdictions under the 2008-2011 COAG Work Program on Water. The objectives of this Strategy are to provide sustainable, secure and safe water supplies and wastewater services; provide a level of service that meets regulatory standards that would apply to any other community of similar size and location; and encourage responsible water use and where appropriate, water conservation.
3. The Commonwealth will provide a financial contribution of \$6.4 million for two projects in the communities of Wilcannia and Walgett to assist New South Wales to implement the strategy. Schedule A to this Implementation Plan provides an overview of the projects and their objectives.

TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

4. This Implementation Plan replaces the previous Implementation Plan for the COAG Strategy on Water and Wastewater in Remote Communities – New South Wales, dated 6 December 2011.
5. This Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, and the State of New South Wales (the State), represented by the Minister for Primary Industries ('the Parties').
6. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion of the project (scheduled for completion by June 2015), including the acceptance by the Commonwealth of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against project milestones specified in this Implementation Plan.
7. This Implementation Plan may be varied by written agreement between the Ministers or their delegates.
8. Either Party may terminate this agreement by providing 30 days notice in writing. Where this Implementation Plan is terminated by the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth's liability to make payments to the State is limited to payments associated with all progress achieved by the State up to the date termination takes effect. Such progress would need to be detailed in a report to the Commonwealth within 30 days of termination.
9. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Implementation Plan.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

10. The objective of this Implementation Plan is to provide sustainable and safe water supplies and wastewater services to the communities of Walgett (including the Namoi Reserve and Gingie Reserve community) and Wilcannia (including the nearby Mallee and Warrali Mission Aboriginal communities).
11. This Project will provide water and wastewater infrastructure and build the capacity of the relevant water supply authorities to improve the management and overall security of water and wastewater services in the community.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Role of the Commonwealth

12. The Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC) is responsible for reviewing the State's performance against the Project milestones specified in this Implementation Plan and providing any consequential financial contribution to the State for that performance.

Role of the State

13. The State will have responsibility for:
 - a) fully funding the Project after accounting for financial contributions from the Commonwealth and any third party;
 - b) completing the Project in a timely and professional manner in accordance with this Implementation Plan;
 - c) implementing actions endorsed in the Strategy on Water and Wastewater Services in Remote (including Indigenous) Communities to support and complement the Project; and
 - d) meeting all conditions including providing reports, in accordance with this Implementation Plan.
14. The State agrees to allow, at all reasonable times, appropriate Commonwealth representatives access to all sites where Project works are being or have been undertaken.
15. The State agrees to establish a Project Management Committee (the Committee) to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Project. The Commonwealth, at its option, may be an observer.
16. The State agrees to ensure that prior agreement is reached with the Commonwealth on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to the activity under this Implementation Plan, and the roles of both the Commonwealth and the State will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.
17. The State agrees to have in place a detailed project management plan, including but not limited to, a procurement strategy, communication, risk and stakeholder plans.
18. This Implementation Plan will be implemented consistent with Commonwealth arrangements that seek to improve occupational health and safety standards in the building industry, specifically: the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* and *Building and Construction Industry (Accreditation Scheme) Regulations 2005*; and the *National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry* and the *Australian Government Implementation Guidelines for the National code of Practice for the Construction Industry*.

FUNDING, MILESTONES AND PAYMENTS

19. The maximum funding to be provided by the Commonwealth for these projects is \$6,400,000 payable in accordance with milestones set out in Table 1 below.
20. Project milestones will be identified and agreed to by the parties in the project management plan required under Paragraph 17 of this Implementation Plan. Agreed project milestones will be attached to this Implementation Plan.

Table 1 – Project Milestones and Payment Schedule

Milestone No	For period	Milestone	Milestone Report due	Instalment
1	N/A	Acceptance of Project Management Plans for Walgett and Wilcannia to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth. Commencement of pre-construction project activities.	Within 4 weeks of signature	\$500,000
2	Project commencement – 31 December 2012	Commencement of Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant and associated works. Acceptance of a Progress Report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	January 2013	\$750,000
3	1 January 2013- 30 June 2013	Let tenders for Walgett sewerage works. Achievement of milestones in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Walgett. Acceptance of a progress report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	May 2013	\$1,250,000
4	1 January 2013- 30 June 2013	Achievement of milestones for the Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant and associated works in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan. Commence sewerage work activities in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Wilcannia. Acceptance of a progress report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	June 2013	\$900,000
5	1 July 2013 - 31 December 2013	Let tenders for Walgett Water Treatment Plant. Achievement of milestones for the replacement of envirocycle sewerage systems in Namoi village in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Walgett. Acceptance of a Progress Report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	January 2014	\$2,100,000

6	1 July 2013 - 31 March 2014	Practical completion of the Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan. Practical completion of the sewerage work in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Wilcannia. Acceptance of a Progress Report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	April 2014	\$300,000
7	1 January 2014 – 15 May 2014	Achievement of construction milestones for the Walgett Water Treatment Plant and practical completion of the sewerage works in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Walgett. Acceptance of the Progress Report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	May 2014	\$600,000
8	15 May 2014 – 30 June 2015	Completion of the Walgett Water Treatment Plant in accordance with the detailed Project Management Plan for Walgett. Acceptance of the Final Report by the Committee and the Commonwealth.	June 2015	Nil
				\$6,400,000

Payment Schedule

21. Instalments are paid subject to the acceptance of milestone reports for works performed during the previous reporting period and a forecast of intentions of works to be conducted in the next reporting period, as per Table 1.
22. Any Commonwealth financial contribution payable will be processed by the Commonwealth Treasury and paid to the State Treasury in accordance with the payment arrangements set out in Schedule D of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations*.

BUDGET

23. The estimated overall Project Budget for each component of the project is set out in Tables 2 & 3. GST is not payable on amounts paid by the Commonwealth under this Implementation Plan.

Table 2: Overall project budget - Walgett

Walgett Water Supply	
New 1.5 ML/day Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Walgett	3,100,000
Upgrade lower Namoi River intake (in WTP contract)	100,000
Walgett Sewerage	
Upgrade Walgett Sewage Treatment Plant (safety works)	160,800
Upgrade Walgett Sewage Treatment Plant (mat ponds)	257,747
Namoi Village Water Supply and Sewerage, comprising:	
Replacement of existing enviro cycle systems with conventional gravity sewerage and new filtered and raw water mains from Walgett to Namoi Vlge.	2,191,706
Gingie Reserve Minor upgrade works	70,000
Preconstruction and project mgt costs	1,044,747

Total estimated project budget	6,925,000
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	4,200,000
equals estimated contribution from non-Commonwealth sources	2,725,000

Table 3: Overall project budget - Wilcannia

Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant	
Refurbish Wilcannia Water Treatment Plant	348,864
Repaint treated water reservoir, repair ladders etc	335,700
Wilcannia Water Supply and Sewerage contract, comprising:	
Replace rising main from river intake to WTP	
Repair river intake	
Refurbish Sewage Treatment Plant	
Mallee Sewerage: convert septic tank pump system to gravity sewerage	
Warrali Mission Sewerage: convert septic tank system to gravity sewerage	
Replace existing sewage pumping stations with new SPS (Warrali)	
Upgrade Wilcannia (town) sewerage system	100,000
Preconstruction and project mgt costs	554,357
Total estimated project budget	3,874,421
less estimated Commonwealth contribution	2,200,000
equals estimated contribution from non-Commonwealth sources	1,674,421

24. Having regard to the estimated costs of projects specified in the overall Project budget, the State will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the Project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the Project. Similarly, the State bears all risk should the costs of a project exceed the estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the State to deliver projects cost-effectively and efficiently.
25. The works proposed in this Implementation Plan will provide sustainable and safe water supplies and wastewater services to the community of Walgett (including the Namoi Reserve Aboriginal community). However, following further consultations with Walgett Shire Council and additional technical investigations it has been found that the water supply will be still at risk during periods of sustained drought. To provide additional security to the water supply a new water intake and rising main are required to provide long term security to the water supply for Walgett. The estimated cost of this work is \$1,950,000. At this time there are no State funds available for this additional work. The works proposed in the Implementation Plan are required to provide adequate water supply and sewerage services, even if the additional unfunded works cannot proceed.

REPORTS

26. The State will provide progress reports to demonstrate its achievement of the project milestones set out in Table 1. Each Progress Report is to contain the following information:
- a description of actual performance of the Project to date against the project milestone/s, including a statement as to whether the Project is proceeding in accordance with the milestone activity schedule as set out in this Implementation Plan and if it is not, an explanation as to why and the action the State proposes to take to address the matter/s;
 - promotional activities undertaken in relation to, and media coverage of, the sub-projects listed in Schedule A during the last reporting period; and

- c) a description of the work that will be undertaken to complete the remaining project milestone(s) and any expected promotional opportunities, during the next reporting period for the Project; and
27. A report on the implementation by the State of the actions endorsed in the Strategy for Water and Wastewater Services for Remote (including Indigenous) Communities, to be submitted in conjunction with the Progress Report.
28. The final Project Report is due within 60 Business Days of the completion of the Project (or termination of this Implementation Plan or the Project) and will be a stand-alone document that can be used for public information dissemination purposes regarding the Project. The final Project Report must:
- a) describe the conduct, benefits and outcomes of the Project as a whole;
 - b) evaluate the Project, including assessing the extent to which the objective has been achieved and explaining why any aspects were not achieved;
 - c) provide a monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan for the ongoing operation of the infrastructure arising from this Implementation Plan; and
 - d) include a discussion of any other matters, relating to the Project, which DSEWPaC notifies the State should be included in this final Project Report at least 60 days before it is due.
29. The State agrees to meet any reasonable request by the Commonwealth to provide other information regarding the Project implementation or funding conditions.

NOTICE OF DETAILS FOR THIS PROJECT

30. A notice relating to this Project, rather than the Agreement generally, is to be in writing and dealt with as follows:
- a) if given by the State to the Commonwealth:

Assistant Secretary
 On-Farm and Urban Water Programs Branch
 Water Efficiency Division
 Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
 GPO Box 787
 Canberra ACT 2600.

Contact number (02) 6274 1111; OR
 - b) if given by the Commonwealth to the State:

Director Urban Water
 NSW Office of Water
 GPO Box 3889
 Sydney NSW 2001

Contact number (02) 8281 7342

This Schedule A provides an overview of the New South Wales projects and their objectives under the COAG Strategy for Water and Wastewater Services in Remote (including Indigenous) Communities.

Remote Communities Implementation Plan Water Supply and Sewerage Walgait

Project Description

This project aims to improve the reliability and safety of water supply to Walgait and Namoi Reserve village by increasing the capacity of the water treatment plant and the raw water supply. Replacement of the raw water rising main to the water treatment plant will also be undertaken to ensure water quality is maintained to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This work will benefit both the supply continues to meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This work will benefit both the village. In addition, the upgrade of the drinking water main from Walgait to Namoi Reserve Village will significantly improve the water supply to the village.

The sewerage portion of the project will upgrade the Walgait Sewage Treatment Plant, to allow the replacement of the onsite wastewater treatment systems at Namoi Reserve community. This will improve the reliability of the system and protect public health. Minor upgrade works will also be carried out to the sewage pump station at the Gindie Reserve community. This will improve the reliability of the system and promote public health.

Schedule A

Remote Communities Implementation Plan Water Supply and Sewerage Wilcannia

Project Description

This project aims to improve the reliability, life-span and safety of Wilcannia's water supply by refurbishing the water treatment plant, and carrying out repairs to the intake structure on the river, and replacement of the raw water rising main to the water treatment plant. The local reservoir will also be replaced to ensure water quality is maintained to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The sewerage portion of the project will include refurbishment of the Wilcannia Sewage Treatment Plant, and replacement of the wastewater treatment plant headworks and other infrastructure within the community. In the Mallee Aboriginal Community, works will be undertaken to improve the raw sewage collection system by converting the existing septic tank effluent pump (STEP) system to a conventional gravity system (ie no septic tanks) and associated work. New sewage pumping stations will also be provided for the Mallee community and Watch Mission. All works will increase the reliability of the systems and promote public health.

BACKGROUND

This Schedule A provides an overview of the New South Wales projects and their objectives under the COAG Strategy for Water and Wastewater Services in Remote (including Indigenous) Communities.

Remote Communities Implementation Plan Water Supply and Sewerage - Walgett

Project Description

This project aims to improve the reliability and safety of **water supply** to Walgett and Namoi Reserve village by increasing the capacity of both the water filtration plant and the raw non-drinking water supply. Replacement of the water filtration plant will improve the quality of the treated water, ensuring the water supply continues to meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This work will benefit both the residents of Walgett (town) and Namoi Reserve.

In addition, the upgrade of the drinking and raw water mains from Walgett to Namoi Reserve Village will significantly improve the water pressure of both drinking and raw (non-drinking) water supplies to the Village.

The **sewerage** portion of the project will upgrade the Walgett Sewage Treatment Plant, to allow the replacement of the onsite wastewater treatment systems at Namoi Reserve community. This will improve the reliability of the system and protect public health. Minor upgrade works will also be carried out to the sewage pump station at the Gingie Reserve community. This will improve the reliability of the systems and promote public health.

Remote Communities Implementation Plan Water Supply and Sewerage - Wilcannia

Project Description

This project aims to improve the reliability, life-span and safety of Wilcannia's **water supply** by refurbishing the water treatment plant, and carrying out repairs to the intake structure on the river and replacement of the raw water rising main to the water treatment plant. The local reservoir will also be relined to ensure water quality is maintained to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The **sewerage** portion of the project will include refurbishment of the Wilcannia Sewage Treatment Plant, and replacement of the wastewater treatment plant headworks and other infrastructure within the communities.

In the Mallee Aboriginal Community, works will be undertaken to improve the sewage collection system by converting the existing septic tank effluent pump (STEP) system to a conventional gravity system (ie. no septic tanks) and associated work. New sewage pumping stations will also be provided for the Mallee community and Warrali Mission. All works will increase the reliability of the systems and promote public health.