

Warragamba Dam Wall Raising Proposal

This document answers frequently asked questions about the assessment process for the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall.

Is the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall considered Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI)?

The proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall was declared CSSI in October 2022 by the NSW Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes.

What's the process for assessing CSSI applications?

Projects that are declared to be CSSI are assessed under the same comprehensive process that applies to State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) applications. The key steps in this assessment pathway are:

- Proponent requests the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)
- Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Public exhibition of the EIS
- Proponent responds to submissions, government agency advice and the department's key issues
- Exhibition of any Preferred Infrastructure Report or Amendment Report
- Assessment of the proposal as an SSI application, and preparation of the Planning Secretary's assessment report
- Determination by the Minister for Planning as SSI (which is declared CSSI).

For more information, visit the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

What is a Preferred Infrastructure Report (PIR)?

A PIR is required from a proponent if the Planning Secretary requests updates to a State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) application to address any issues raised during the assessment of an application and/or to incorporate any further assessment.

For more information, visit the department's [PIR webpage](#).

Why has the department asked for a PIR for the Warragamba Dam wall raising?

Given the level of interest and issues raised by agencies, the department has asked WaterNSW to provide a PIR, along with its Response to Submissions (RtS) that details any further assessment and updates to the proposal required to address the issues raised.

For how long will the PIR and RtS be on exhibition?

The PIR and RtS will be on exhibition for 21 days from 21 November 2022 to midnight 12 December 2022.

Will the department consider extending the exhibition period?

The department has selected a 21-day period for exhibition to enable the public to make any additional submissions regarding new information provided in the PIR. PIR exhibitions are typically significantly shorter than EIS exhibitions.

Any submissions and comments made on the EIS, PIR and RtS will be considered as part of the assessment.

What are the next steps for the SSI application following the exhibition of the PIR?

The department will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the proposal once it receives WaterNSW's response to the feedback and issues raised in submissions during the exhibition of the PIR and RtS.

Our assessment report will be provided to the Minister for Planning and Minister for Homes, who will be responsible for making the final decision on whether the project can proceed and what conditions will be imposed on the project.

How is the Commonwealth Government involvement in the Warragamba Dam Raising assessment process?

The Warragamba Dam wall raising application will be assessed by the department under the Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. This agreement streamlines the assessment process for major projects that require both NSW and Commonwealth Government environmental approvals.

Under the agreement, the NSW Government assesses development applications on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, establishing a one-stop-shop for environmental assessment in NSW.

However, the Federal Minister for the Environment will still make their own determination under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Approvals will be required from both the State and Commonwealth Governments before the proposal can proceed.