

Queanbeyan to Bungendore Water Supply

FACT SHEET

Background

At a meeting in September 2022, Council received two reports about the future of Bungendore's town water supply. There is a critical need to find additional town water supply to support future growth of Bungendore.

A lack of water will prevent Bungendore growing as planned in the adopted Bungendore Structure Plan 2018-2048 and no further development would go ahead outside what is already approved or allowed within the existing village.

What is being proposed?

The proposed solution is a purpose-built pipeline to transfer the water to Bungendore from our existing supply at east Queanbeyan.

What route is being considered?

Five potential routes for a pipeline were initially considered. The proposed route would have a new water pumping station at the site of a former reservoir that was decommissioned in east Queanbeyan. A set of 375mm and 300mm diameter water mains would then run through a series of Council-owned land, road reserves, community title land, private property, Crown land, watercourses, State Road, rail corridor, and Commonwealth land.

How much water is required?

To support Bungendore's needs, an annual entitlement of 1,000 ML/year and daily additional capacity of 4.5ML/day of water supply is required. These figures have been developed in consideration of new housing BASIX standards, Council's planning requirements for a minimum 22.5kL tank for all new serviced residential lots, historical impact of pricing as a demand management tool, improvements in water efficiency, and the impact of climate change.

Is the project feasible?

In a strictly engineering sense, the physical challenges and constraints can be solved with careful design and construction.

A feasibility study was presented to the Council meeting on 12 April 2023. This addressed the viability, approvals pathway and economics of the project. Council determined to proceed to the next phase of investigation.

The ultimate viability of the project also depends on securing the intergovernment approvals to extract water from the Queanbeyan Water Supply Agreement. This is an agreement between the Australian, NSW and ACT Governments that allows us to access bulk potable water from the ACT.

How much will it cost?

The estimated capital cost is in the range of \$65 million. If it was to be constructed, it would be paid for by developer contributions received for water supply. We will also apply for external grants.

The investigation phase that we are entering is also funded by developer contributions that is specifically available for this type of planning work.

What needs to happen now?

The project has so far focused on the preferred route from a theoretical point of view. We now need to investigate the practicalities. This will include talking with landowners where the pipeline might be laid, so that we can begin environmental studies.

The investigation, design, and tendering will take approximately 12 months. If the project proceeds to construction, this is expected to take 18-24 months.

Updates on the project will be made on our webpage at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/BGD-pipeline