Stakeholder and community engagement

The NSW Government will work with stakeholders and communities to improve the management of our water resources for all—for communities, for the environment, for our culture and heritage, and the economy.

A key component of the Menindee Lakes Water Saving Project’s success is engagement with stakeholders, landholders, and community members to incorporate various views, knowledge, and input into the project’s ongoing development.

How we will engage with you

Engagement will take place through a range of means, including stakeholder forums, information sessions, and formal submission processes for both the environmental impact statement and any amendments to relevant water sharing plans.

All engagement activities will be conducted in a timely, transparent, and equitable manner. We will give specific dates and details of various engagement activities at appropriate stages of the project’s development.

Early consultation with stakeholders and the community continues. This has raised concerns that will be addressed as part of the ongoing development of the project.

Issues and concerns have been put forward by entitlement holders, Lower Darling irrigators, landholders on the Great Darling Anabranch, community members, local Indigenous people and Traditional Owners. In summary, these concerns broadly relate (but are not limited) to:

- risks to security of supply
- impacts on the ecology of the Lower Darling and Darling Anabranch
- impacts on environmental values arising from the current operation of the Menindee Lakes
- loss of amenity at Menindee Lakes due to reduced water levels and perceived impacts on local employment
- impacts on the condition of surrounding recreation areas, including Copi Hollow, Sunset Strip and Kinchega National Park
- undervaluing of the local environment relative to downstream environments
- unequal treatment of evaporation at Menindee Lakes as opposed to other areas
- damage to cultural heritage and special areas for local Indigenous people and Traditional Owners, including through environmental damage.

Stakeholder input on these and other issues will be sought throughout the detailed design of the project. This will consist of several components including governance, regulatory and targeted engagement. Further information on timing and implementation of these processes will be provided in due course.