



CARCOAR AND BLAYNEY TO ORANGE WATER PIPELINE PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Regional Water Security - background

In response to the worst drought on record for the Central West Region, the Central NSW Councils (Centroc) undertook a comprehensive Regional Water Security Study in 2009 across 17 local government areas. The study identified 29 towns across the Region would require substantial water security improvements to ensure water supply security into the future.

The Centroc Water Security Study identified significant benefits in developing a regional water grid. In particular, linking the Upper Lachlan and Upper Macquarie Catchments was identified as the best way to improve water reliability and security. The study identified the linkage could be achieved with construction of a pipeline between Carcoar (the Central Tablelands Water network) and Icely Road (the Orange City Council network). In addition, a number of other linkages with the Central Tablelands Water (CTW) network were identified as part of an overarching regional strategy. These linkages capitalise on the vast geographical reach of the CTW network as the backbone for many regional network opportunities.

What is the Orange to Blayney & Carcoar Water Security Pipeline Project?

The Pipeline Project was identified in 2009 by Centroc as infrastructure critical to shoring the NSW Central West Region's water security. The 61-kilometre pipeline links the CTW and Orange City Council water supply networks, from Carcoar Water Filtration Treatment Plant through to the Icely Road Water Filtration Plant in Orange.

The Project is a two-way pipeline which will allow water to be transferred to either water supply network if and when there is an emergency water issue at either water filtration plant.

There is also another linkage between Orange and Molong that is being constructed with the aim of developing a regional water grid for the Central West.

Is Orange City Council taking CTW/Lake Rowlands water?

Orange City Council will only be supplied water from the CTW water supply network during an emergency water situation. For example, if Orange City Council have a breakdown or malfunction at their Water Filtration Plant, under a formal Bulk Water Supply Agreement, CTW will transfer water to Orange City Council at an agreed price, and vice versa. The pipeline will also act as security for other catastrophes or failures such as failure of CTW's raw water pipelines or power outages.

Will CTW consumers be on water restrictions if Orange is on water restrictions?

Water restrictions for CTW consumers will only be activated as per Council's Water Restrictions Policy, irrespective of Orange being on water restrictions. The objective of CTW's Water Restrictions policy is to manage demand during periods of water scarcity to ensure all customers have access to a secure water supply.

The CTW supply network and the Orange City Council water supply network will remain as separate (independent) networks.

What are the benefits of the Project for CTW?

The new pipeline from Carcoar to Millthorpe will replace the existing pipeline used to supply water to Millthorpe. This pipeline was due to be replaced in 11 years at an estimated cost of \$13 million (NSW Reference Rates, 2017 \$) to CTW. CTW is therefore obtaining approximately \$15m of new water infrastructure, replacing ageing infrastructure for CTW's contribution of only \$2.5 million.

This Project has therefore allowed CTW to bring forward its Capital Works Program by 10 to 12 years for the replacement of water trunk mains between Millthorpe, Blayney and Carcoar.

CTW will be utilising this new water infrastructure on a daily basis to continue to provide a quality water supply to its existing consumers.

This Project will enable CTW to operate the water supply network from Millthorpe, Blayney and Carcoar more efficiently and effectively.

Water security for the CTW supply network and its consumers will be increased.

What is the cost of the Water Security Pipeline Project?

The total estimated cost of the project is \$28.7 million.

Funding/Contributions

- \$21.2 million in funding under the NSW Government's Restart NSW Water Security for Regions program
- \$5 million in funding from Orange City Council
- \$2.5 million in funding from CTW

Once the Project is completed, who will be responsible for managing and maintaining the pipeline?

CTW will be responsible for managing and maintaining the pipeline in the Blayney Shire area and Orange City Council will be responsible for managing and maintaining the pipeline in the Orange City Council area.

When is the Project expected to be completed?

The Project is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.