

MEDIA RELEASE

Blowering Dam upgrade heralds major economic benefits

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The award of the construction contract for the \$33 million Blowering Dam safety upgrade will bring huge economic benefits to the Tumut region, Minister for Water Phil Costa said today.

Macmahon Construction Pty Ltd will undertake the project to construct a parapet wall on the dam crest and modify the spillway, commencing in May this year and set for completion by 2011.

Blowering is one of a number of dams in regional NSW operated by the State Water Corporation that are scheduled for major safety upgrades to handle the most extreme flood events.

Minister Costa said the Blowering project will utilise workers, equipment and materials from the Tumut area, representing a huge economic boon for the local economy.

“This project is a huge undertaking and I am very pleased to say it will translate into around 30 jobs and building activity in the area,” he said.

“Macmahon Construction has indicated they will source a good deal of their needs from the local area, and I understand that includes plant equipment such as excavators and trucks, as well as labour and materials such as concrete, filter material and the like.

“The project will also ensure the future safety of Blowering Dam under the most extreme weather conditions.

“Investing in a major capital works program at Blowering Dam is necessary to meet contemporary dam safety standards and ensure the dam continues to serve the community for generations to come.”

Works on the dam will consist of construction of a parapet wall on the dam crest and spillway modifications to improve the capacity of the 40-year-old structure, located on the Murrumbidgee River.

“Blowering Dam is safe for day-to-day operation and can adequately manage the largest flood on record,” Mr Costa said.

The proposed works will consist of a 2m parapet wall on the crest of the dam and raising the spillway chute wall to contain high flood discharges through the spillway domain. The parapet wall and chute walls will be constructed out of cast concrete with significant earthworks at the crest of the dam.

The project involves 10,000 m³ of concrete and 90,000 m³ of earthworks.

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