

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development



8 September 2009

COPETON DETAILED DESIGN CONTRACT AWARDED

Minister for Water, Phil Costa today announced Copeton Dam safety upgrade is on track with the contract for detailed design of stage one now awarded.

Minister Costa said the \$500,000 contract will allow URS Australia Pty Ltd to design the stage one works, which includes an auxiliary fuse plug spillway at Diamond Bay.

“This is a \$50 million investment in improving the safety of this important water source,” Mr Costa said.

“We are now getting to the critical stages of this important project and the start of the detailed design works is a significant step in the project’s development.

“This upgrade will not only bring Inverell’s major dam in line with the highest standards of modern flood requirements, it will inject millions of dollars into the local economy and generate up to 50 jobs during construction,” he said.

“This upgrade is being undertaken in line with regulations set by the NSW Dams Safety Committee.

“Consultation between the project management team and the Inverell community has been ongoing to ensure stakeholders are well informed as the project progresses.

“Construction on the dam safety upgrade is anticipated to begin in 2011 and is expected to take two years.

“In order to carry out the safety upgrade State Water need to relocate elements of the recreation park.

“I’m happy to announce State Water Corporation and the Copeton Waters State Park Trust have agreed on a design for the relocation of park facilities.

“State Water held five design review meetings with managers of Copeton Waters to discuss options and have come up with a design both parties are happy with.”

“Project managers will now meet with the Gwydir Shire Council General Manager on Monday, 7 September 2009 to discuss modifications to the Fossickers Highway between Inverell and Bingara.

“With projects of this scale bring significant flow on benefits to the local communities, through purchasing supplies, sourcing labor and materials, as well as bringing unique skill sets to the region.

For further information on the upgrade, phone State Water on (02) 6841 2000 or visit the website www.statewater.com.au.

Media contact: Claire March 0403 937 849