

MEDIA RELEASE

Phil Costa
Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development



Saturday 24 October 2009

MINISTER ATTENDS BURRINJUCK CELEBRATIONS

NSW Minister for Water and Regional Development Phil Costa today officially unveiled the Burrinjuck Dam centenary plaque at a special ceremony as part of the official opening of the upgrade.

Minister Costa said the plaque unveiling ceremony was part of the four-day long celebrations at Burrinjuck.

“This is an important milestone for the Burrinjuck community, and hundreds of people have visited the dam to celebrate its opening.

“The Burrinjuck Dam is an important part of the history of water in NSW as it was the first major irrigation dam in the State.

“Burrinjuck Dam marked the beginning of the Murrumbidgee and Coleambally Irrigation Areas.

“It also holds great significance for many people throughout the area who have relatives that worked on the construction of the dam.

“We’re holding a special commemorative service today to recognise those who lost their lives during construction of the dam.”

The service will be held at Lawlers Picnic Area, Burrinjuck Waters State Park at 10am as part of State Water’s Back to Burrinjuck celebrations.

Minister Costa said former Burrinjuck resident Elsa Bolten is planning to attend to reunite with old friends and recognise the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives working on the dam.

“The service will be a nice opportunity to have a prayer for the poor men who drowned whilst fixing the spillway,” Mrs Bolten said.

“It will be nice to come back to Burrinjuck and pay my respects to the men we knew and loved.”

Minister Costa said tours of the dam will be held on the hour between 9am and 2pm Friday 23 to Sunday 25 October 2009.

“This is the first time Burrinjuck Dam wall will be open to the public in 20 years,” Mr Costa said.

“I know families are looking forward to getting back to see the dam and I encourage them to take part in the celebrations.”

The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Reunion Dinner and Dance will be held on the Saturday evening and will feature the launch of the Back to Burrinjuck documentary.

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