

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON BLOWERING UPGRADE

24 June 2009

Construction on the safety upgrade of Blowering Dam will begin on Monday, 29 June 2009.

State Water Corporation has engaged Macmahon Contractors Pty Ltd to undertake the \$33million upgrade which will involve constructing a parapet wall on top of the dam wall crest and raising the spillway walls.

State Water CEO George Warne said the upgrade, funded by the NSW government, will bring Blowering Dam into line with contemporary safety standards.

"Our ability to understand extreme weather patterns has changed significantly since this dam was built in 1968," Mr Warne said.

"The upgrade is necessary to ensure the dam continues to operate safely in the case of extreme flood conditions in the future."

Blowering Dam is one of seven dams operated by State Water throughout regional NSW undergoing an upgrade to comply with the new legislation set by the NSW Dams Safety Committee.

The Tumut economy is set to benefit from the upgrade through the creation of jobs and sourcing of materials from the local area, Mr Warne said.

"Macmahon Contractors has indicated they will source a significant portion of plant and equipment, plus labour and materials from the local area," he said.

Access to Brandy Mary Park and the dam crest will be closed during construction for public safety, Mr Warne said.

"We have consulted with local landholders and the Tumut Council prior to construction to ensure they are well informed about any impacts construction may have."

Construction is anticipated to be finished by 2011.

A ceremony will be held at the dam on Monday, 29 June 2009 at 1pm to recognize the commencement of construction. Media are welcome to attend.

-ENDS-

**Media enquiries and interviews:
Jane Urquhart (02) 6841 2087 or 0429 449 711**