

LAKE BREWSTER PROJECT ON TARGET

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Construction of the Lake Brewster Water Efficiency Project has progressed rapidly over the summer and is on target for early completion due to dry weather.

State Water Project Manager, Harry Herath, said the 5.5km main dividing embankment across the lake was 75% complete and he expected all earthworks for the bank and the wetlands to be completed by the end of June provided there are no delays due to weather.

"The project is expected to save between 7,000 and 10,000ML of water per year on average, which will be shared between the environment and improved reliability for water users," Mr Herath said.

Once construction is finished and Lake Brewster comes back on line as part of the Lachlan system, it will be operated in the same manner as previously, Mr Herath said.

"Surplus flows arising from tributary and flood inflows will be stored in Lake Cargelligo first, and further inflows will be stored in Lake Brewster for later release to meet summer demand downstream," he said.

"The difference is that we will be able to get all the water out of Lake Brewster instead of keeping 20,000 ML in inactive storage, and the water will be better quality because the turbidity and blue-green algae levels should be reduced.

"Both Lake Cargelligo and Lake Brewster are critical to the security of supplies in the Lachlan River system and consequences are enormous if either of them is made non-operational," Mr Herath said.

The project has received \$7.5million funding from the Australian Government's Water for the Future Program, with the rest of the costs being shared by the Lachlan CMA, State Water via water charges and the NSW Department of Water and Energy.

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