



Kevin Anderson MP
MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH ELECTORATE
MINISTER FOR BETTER REGULATION AND INNOVATION

MEDIA RELEASE



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WALCHA'S WATER SECURITY RECEIVES BUDGET BOOST

Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson has welcomed the allocation of \$9 million to help secure Walcha's water supply into the future.

The funding was announced in today's state budget.

Mr Anderson said, "The security of water is essential for country towns such as Walcha to thrive and to grow.

"The \$9 million will go towards construction costs of a new 300 megalitre off-stream storage facility," Mr Anderson said.

Walcha Council has already commenced work on the design phase of the project, which together with construction is expected to generate up to 60 jobs.

The use of local contractors, suppliers and consultants will be prioritised to maximise the benefit to local businesses.

The project was identified as the number one recommended infrastructure project for the Namoi region in the *Namoi Region Water for the Future Strategy* and identified as a key action in the Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Southern New England.

Walcha Mayor, Eric Noakes said the funding will be a welcome boost to jobs in the short term, and for water storage into the future.

"This is great news for Walcha. It will go a long way towards removing uncertainty surrounding Walcha's water supply, especially in times of drought.

"It is the most important project for our community in Walcha's history; one that we have been developing for over 5 years.

"It will assist in attracting people to Walcha as a place to live, work and relax. Mayor Noakes said.

Mr Anderson said he will be watching construction of the off-stream storage with interest."

"It is pleasing the NSW Government has recognised the importance of this project for Walcha and has backed the proposal with the necessary funds," Mr Anderson concluded.

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