

NSW Water Monitoring Strategy

Southern Coalfield

The NSW Groundwater Monitoring network is being expanded to increase the amount of groundwater data available and ensure a greater understanding of groundwater in coal basins across the State.

Up to 90 new bores will be added to the existing network of over 4,000 bores, with the information gathered to be added to the State's existing knowledge bank of information.

The Southern Coalfield is the second expansion area selected for the drilling and construction of new bores which will be situated on public land from Camden to Moss Vale, South West of Sydney. Work is due to commence on the construction of these bores in December 2017, with expected completion a few months thereafter.



Planned bore sites

Through an extensive site selection process, eight locations have been chosen to:

- Establish 13 new bores
- Refurbish three existing bores

Bores are expected to be completed to depths ranging from 150m to 500m below surface.

These locations are detailed on the area map included.

The locations were chosen following a method that considers a number of factors including the location of any potentially impacting activities (such as a coal mine), and the location of any sensitive receptors to those impacts (such as a water supply dam).

Planned activity

The process for basin geological characterisation and site selection is complete.

An assessment of the planning, environmental or practical limitations to the sites selected is also complete. This included an assessment of environmental and ecological constraints, the existence of culturally significant sites, proximity to neighbouring properties, heavy vehicle access and suitability of site for construction. This process ran in parallel with the site selection process.

To minimise direct inconvenience on private landholders, public land were given preference.

Once the preliminary environmental and planning checks have been cleared, formal approvals from the relevant authorities are required. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) is prepared to present to the consent authorities for assessment. This is nearing its final stages.

The services of drilling contractors and the provision of well head equipment are tendered separately. Procurement must comply with the NSW Government Procurement Guidelines. The process of calling, reviewing, assessing and awarding tenders is generally completed within two months.

Construction of bores includes site preparation, drilling equipment mobilisation, drilling, placement of bore casing and cementing, rig demobilisation and site rehabilitation. This is due to commence in December 2017.

Monitoring equipment will be installed and will start providing real time information (water quality & quantity) on completion.

Table 1. The table below gives a snapshot of each of the planned activities scheduled

| | MONTH | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Task | Oct-17 | Nov-17 | Dec-17 | Jan-18 | Feb-18 | Mar-18 | Apr-18 |
| Approvals | | | | | | | |
| Procurement of contractors for bore construction | | | | | | | |
| Drilling and bore construction | | | | | | | |
| Installation of monitoring equipment and telemetry | | | | | | | |
| Monitoring commences | | | | | | | |

More information

Visit www.water.nsw.gov.au/water-management/groundwater/water-monitoring-framework