



# Central Tablelands Water

## Media Release

29 August 2019

### Emergency Drought Funding welcomed

Central Tablelands Water welcomes the recent announcement by the Water Minister Melinda Pavey of \$78 million to help drought affected communities in the Macquarie Valley. Of significance to CTW, the package includes \$5.5m to partner with Orange City Council on initiatives to enable water to be transferred from Cowra to Orange.

The concept at this stage is understood to involve new infrastructure (including pump stations and reservoirs) in both the Cowra and CTW water supply systems and the use of the recently commissioned CTW to Orange emergency pipeline.

CTW's chairman, Cr David Somerville said, "This latest drought emergency funding is welcomed from Minister Pavey. As a regional water authority, CTW has always been a strong advocate of a regional approach to urban water security for the cities, towns and villages in the Central West. We are committed to working in collaboration with our neighbouring Councils to achieve this. CTW has been working collaboratively with Cowra Shire Council for many years, and more recently with Orange City Council. This project will enable another piece of the regional water grid to be put in place. But it needs to be thoroughly scoped, planned and delivered in a way that the costs, both capital and operating, and the benefits are properly understood, costed and allocated. This includes the impact not only on the Councils involved, but importantly on their own water ratepayers and downstream communities. Importantly, while it is crucial to implement emergency measures such as this at this critical time, it should supplement and not take focus away from an enduring long term solution for which CTW and the whole region has long advocated, namely a substantial increase in dedicated urban water storage high in the catchment."

#### **MEDIA**

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