



THE HON. NOLA MARINO MP

ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES

SENATOR THE HON. ZED SESELJA

SENATOR FOR THE ACT

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MEDIA RELEASE

Scrivener Dam to get much needed upgrade

The Liberal-National Government has provided the National Capital Authority (NCA) \$38.5 million in funding in the 2022-23 Budget over four years to undertake renewal works for Scrivener Dam. The works will primarily involve the strengthening of the dissipator structure of the Dam to ensure structural integrity that will extend the life of the dam for another 100 years.

Scrivener Dam controls the water level in Lake Burley Griffin. The spillway includes the dissipator structure responsible for absorbing the energy of the water flowing over the flood gates. It prevents potentially damaging erosion in the river channel downstream of the dam.

The dam is owned and managed by the NCA on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. It was built in the 1960s in conjunction with a series of lake walls and bridges that were specifically designed to create Lake Burley Griffin, the centrepiece of the National Capital. It acts to maintain the integrity of the lake and the city by controlling water levels at a consistent rate. These controlled water levels, in turn, protect the residents of Canberra from flooding and downstream users from unregulated flows and impacts.

While Scrivener Dam has had regular maintenance, the structure has not undergone any significant strengthening works since it was first built. Under the current funding model for major assets within the NCA's portfolio, periodic larger capital works investments are required, in addition to annual maintenance funding, to reduce the risk of asset failure and to extend the useful life of structures in the most cost-effective way.

Recent studies by the NCA have identified the need to strengthen the Scrivener Dam dissipator. The dissipator absorbs the energy of water flowing over the flood gates during flood events. Ten such events occurred in 2021.

Assistant Minister Nola Marino said the structural integrity and effective day to day management of Scrivener Dam are high priorities for the NCA Board.

“The Scrivener Dam renewal project is well positioned to progress to design and construction quickly, and will support construction and trades jobs, particularly in businesses in the ACT and southern region of NSW.”

Senator for the ACT Zed Seselja said this funding is part of more than \$2.2 billion in infrastructure investments in Canberra by the Liberal-National Government since 2018, the largest infrastructure investment in our city in a generation.

“Throughout 2022-23 more than \$1 billion of Federal Government investment is getting projects moving across our city, including the Australian War Memorial, Monaro Highway upgrades and the William Hovel Drive duplication,” Senator Seselja said.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY | GINA CRUZ | 0409 403 252