

Advancing the Armidale region

Regional Water Security



RESTORE & THRIVE

ARMIDALE
Regional Council



Mayor's Foreword

Water security cannot be taken for granted in regional Australia. Just two years ago our community was facing the prospect of running out of water – an outcome which would have crippled our community and devastated our region.

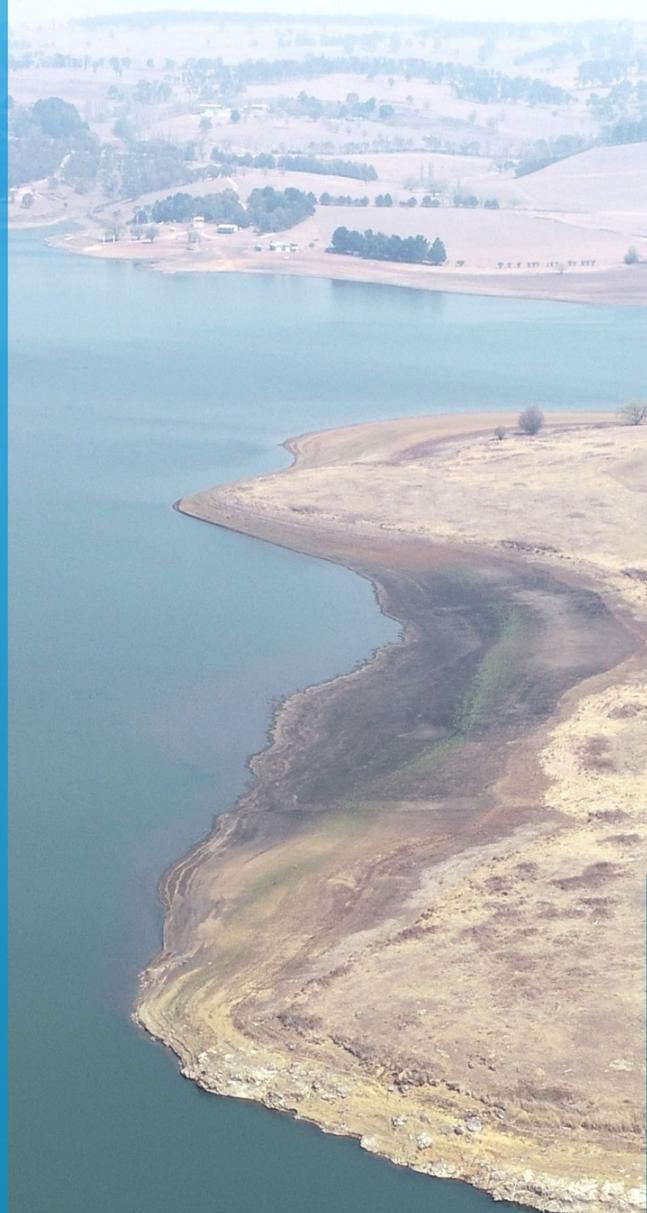
Our water is currently supplied from Malpas Dam which was constructed more than 50 years ago, when our population was just over half what it is today. With around 13,000 million litres of storage capacity, Malpas Dam in its current configuration does not give our region the security it needs. Indeed, with a changing climate, Malpas Dam will only provide about 60% of our daily water needs even with no further growth. This isn't acceptable.

The good news is that we have been working hard with the support of the NSW Government to identify options to improve our resilience to future droughts. Our plan to address our future water needs relies on a range of measures to ensure appropriate water supply and treatment capacity. Of course, there is no quick, easy or cheap way to fix water security, but our plan will provide the region with security it needs for at least the next 30 years.

Addressing and delivering water security cannot be achieved alone, and Council will need significant financial support from our government partners to deliver this program of works. Our current estimate for delivering water security to the region is \$157m which includes upgrading the Malpas Dam wall, restoring and upgrading the Oaky River Dam, providing a pipeline to Armidale and upgrading our treatment capacity in Armidale.

Even though we are not currently in drought, we cannot afford to wait until the next drought to address this issue. We look forward to working with our government partners to deliver a strong more resilient region.

Sam Coupland
Mayor



Malpas Dam in 2019 reached historic lows during the unprecedented drought.

We choose to grow and be more than we are today.

We will be both a region and a regional city of significance in the coming decades.

We will broaden our economic base and ensure that we create sustainable jobs which capitalise on our region's comparative advantages.

We set an aspirational target to grow jobs in our region by 4,000 by 2040 and generate at least 1,000 new jobs over the next 5 years.

Advancing the Armidale region

Advancing Armidale is Council's commitment to delivering our vision for growing a prosperous and sustainable region over the next decade and beyond. It's our promise for how we will plan, advocate, deliver and celebrate everything that is needed to support and grow Armidale and our region into the future. It's a measure by which we will take every decision – **it's our community contract.**

Plan – we will ensure that we have a clear vision for the future of Armidale developed in partnership with our community. Our vision will consider the jobs of tomorrow and how we will grow whilst protecting and enriching the lives of our community and the region.

Advocate – we will work with all delivery partners including the Federal and State governments, and the private sector to support the delivery of our vision. We will be transparent and responsible in all of our dealings.

Deliver – we will get on with delivery of our vision ensuring that catalyst projects are prioritised and that we are ready for investment and community building opportunities when they arise.

Celebrate – we will celebrate the delivery of milestones with our community as we deliver our vision to Advance Armidale.

Our vision and plan to Advance Armidale will follow 6 key pillars:

Growing Region – we will broaden our economic base and develop initiatives to grow existing and welcome new businesses

Connected Region – we will improve and provide high quality connections within, and outside of the region

Future Region – we will enhance the natural beauty of the region and ensure that growth is sustainable and resilient

Liveable Region – we will develop and maintain pristine places and spaces and provide facilities to grow an active and healthy community

Enriched Region – we will protect our unique landscape and environment and we will celebrate activities that improve the quality of life for our community

Strong Region – we will be a productive, transparent and strong community always putting the needs of our community first

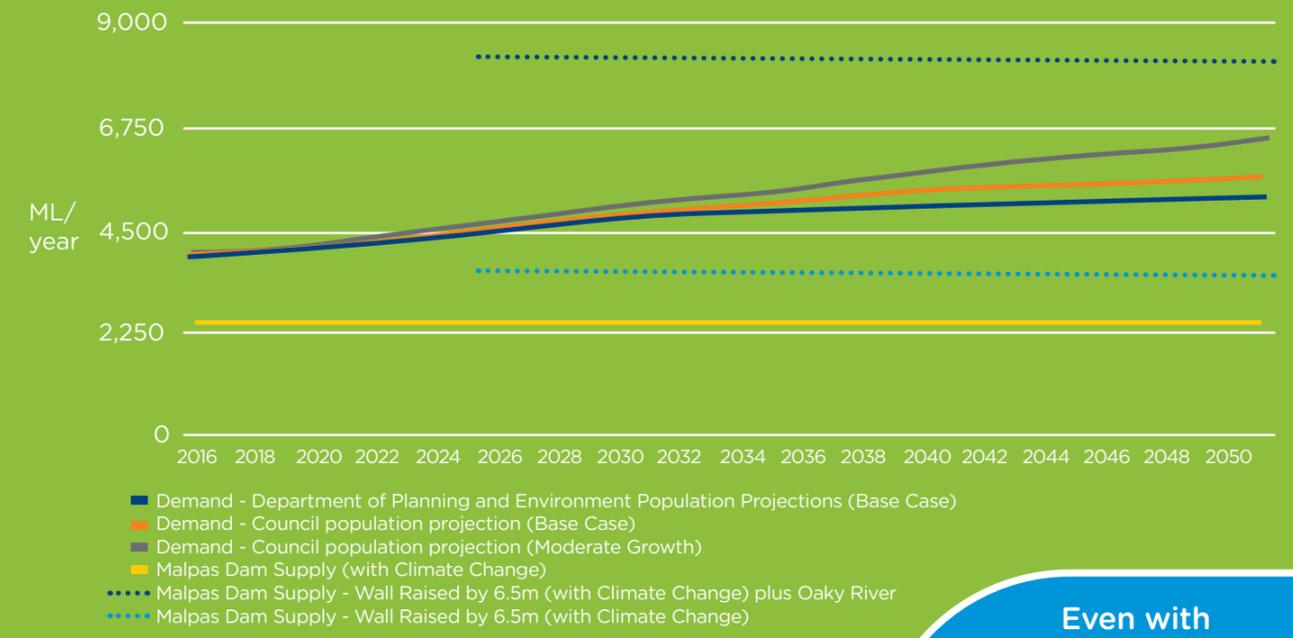


With Climate Change, our current water supply from Malpas Dam is approximately 40% less than our regional water supply needs today

Intake pontoon at Malpas Dam for the Guyra pipeline

Regional Water Resilience

Armidale Region Council Area
Supply Scenarios and Forecast Annual Extraction Requirements



Even with an increase to the Malpas Dam wall, water security will be still 20% less than what we currently need

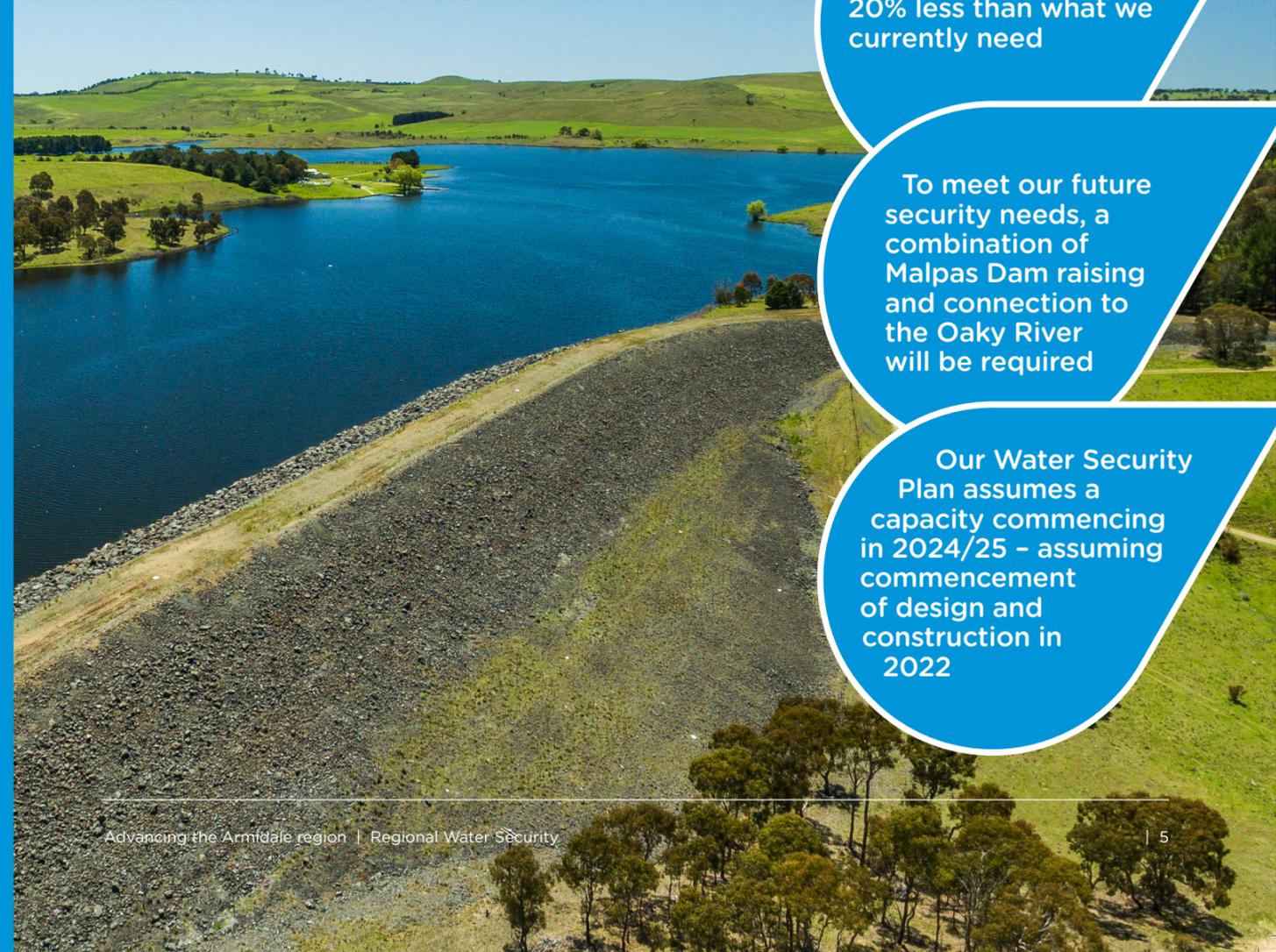
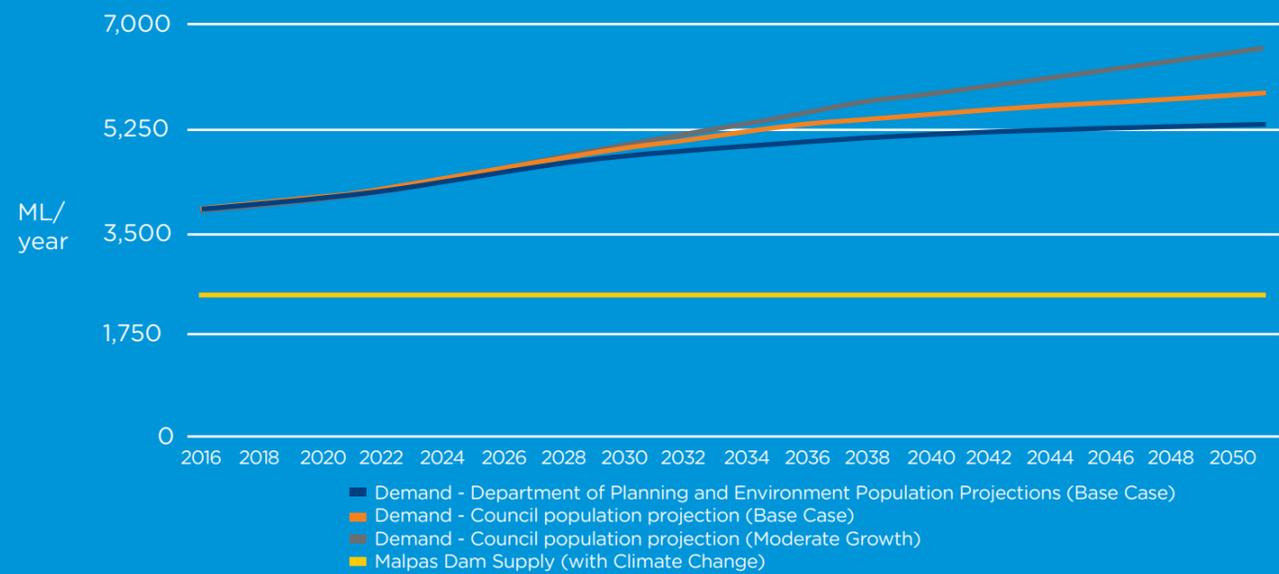
To meet our future security needs, a combination of Malpas Dam raising and connection to the Oaky River will be required

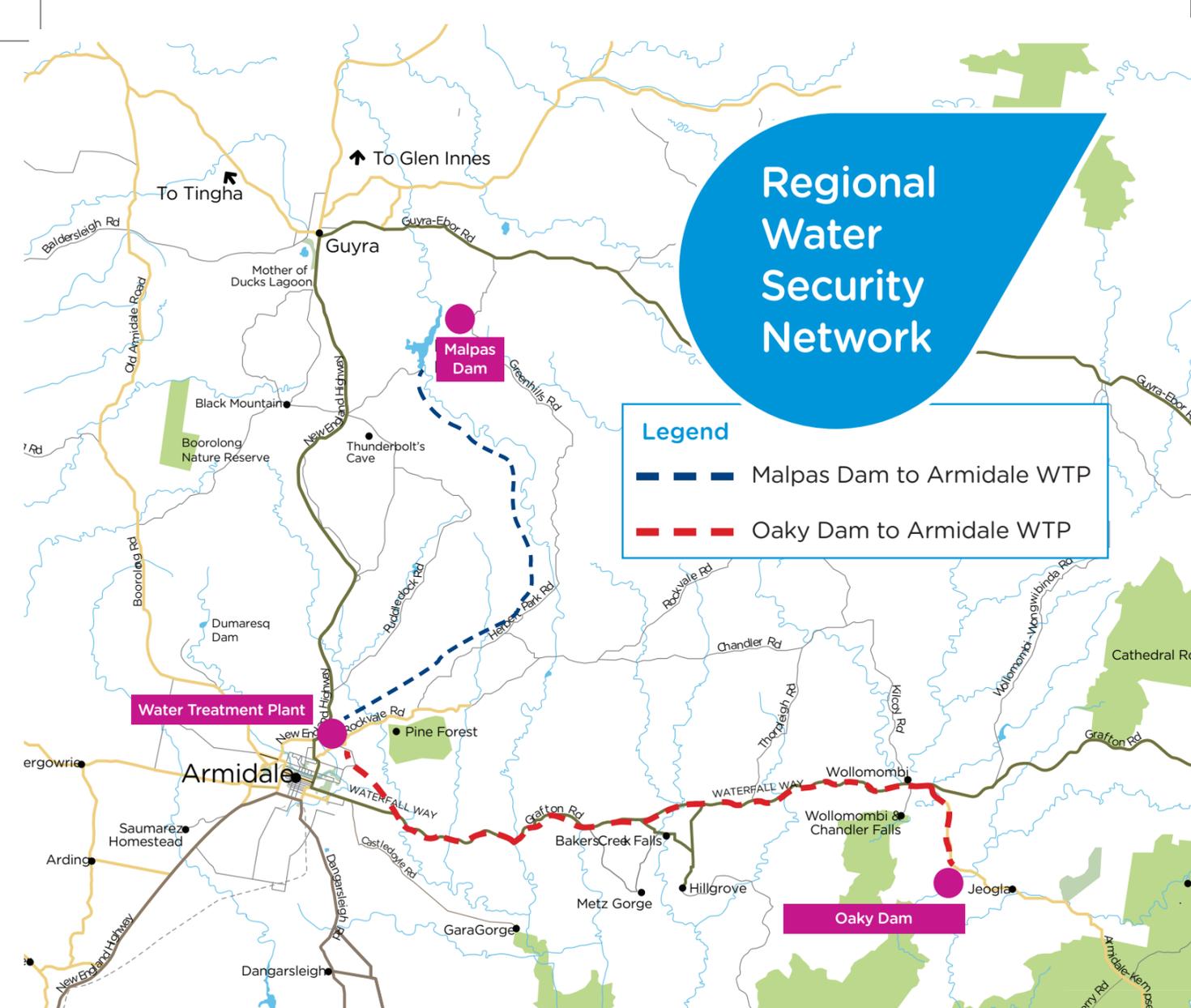
Our Water Security Plan assumes a capacity commencing in 2024/25 - assuming commencement of design and construction in 2022

Our Current Water Security Deficit

Malpas Dam was designed and built for our population more than 50 years ago.

Armidale Region Council Area
Supply and Forecast Annual Extraction Requirements





Delivering Regional Water Security

The options to deliver long-term water security to the Armidale region will require a combination of both Malpas Dam wall raising and restoration and upgrading of the Oaky River Dam. Oaky River Dam is currently owned by Essential Energy and will need to be acquired by Government. Water treatment facilities in Armidale will also need augmentation in a staged capacity.

An assessment of the options and costs for both (with contingency and design) are as follows:

Water Supply

Malpas Dam - Wall Upgrade	\$26.3m
Restore and upgrade Oaky River Dam. Oaky River Dam is currently owned by Essential Energy and will need to be acquired by Government	\$13.0m
67km of 600mm diameter pipeline	\$92.3m
2 pumping stations (880kW & 840kW)	\$5.4m
Total	\$137.0m

Water Treatment

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades (Armidale)	\$20m
New Water Treatment Plant	\$100m
Total	\$120m

The Water Supply options will be delivered in one stage immediately and water treatment is proposed to be augmented in stages as required. Stage 1 of the Water Treatment Plant will provide an additional 7ML/day capacity. Collectively, these works will ensure that the Armidale region has water security for at least the next 30 years ensuring a stronger, more resilient region.





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