

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor praises community for input into The Narrows

Towong Shire Mayor Cr David Wortmann today announced that the community feedback phase for The Narrows Project Feasibility Assessment has been completed. This included four community information sessions, interviews with various local stakeholders and an information display.

The concept of The Narrows Project, which includes a weir and other works, is to deliver more consistent water levels at Tallangatta over the peak tourist season and provide recreation, tourism and other benefits to the town.

Towong Shire Council is undertaking a comprehensive 'once-and-for-all' Feasibility Assessment of the project supported by Victorian Government funding. The Feasibility Assessment is being conducted by leading experts in dam engineering, economic analysis and other disciplines.

Cr Wortmann said that the community feedback phase has gathered useful input from the local community.

"A total of 166 people attended the four Community Information sessions. A variety of pertinent questions were asked at the sessions and useful comments were made. Many people also submitted feedback forms. I personally attended two of the sessions and I was really pleased with the level of community input."

"I'd like to thank everyone who got involved in the process and took the time to share their views and thoughts."

Thirty-two interviews were also conducted with Tallangatta businesses, community organisations, emergency services, schools and other interested parties. The interviews gathered feedback on specific stakeholder considerations, such as information on the impact of variable water levels at Tallangatta on local business activity. Towong Shire Council also hosted an information display in the Tallangatta Library and Community Centre about the Feasibility Assessment between 20 and 31 March 2017.

Community feedback will be considered by a Project Steering Group in preparing advice to the Victorian Government. The Steering Group has membership from all relevant government agencies. The Victorian Government will decide whether additional studies are required.

A Project Fact Sheet and detailed technical reports will continue to be available from Council's Website at www.towong.vic.gov.au/thenarrowsfeasibility

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