

# Ontap

Customer newsletter | January-March 2023

## Helping develop a skilled regional workforce



Apprentice Electrician Claudia Barton

Riverina Water is making a significant investment in education and training by continuing to offer a range of entry-level roles.

In recent years the amount of traineeships and apprenticeships offered has been increased.

Claudia Barton began with Riverina Water as an apprentice electrician in 2021 and has gained extensive experience on the job while earning a qualification.

"I have learned so much during my apprenticeship and look forward to where it will take me in my career," she said. "Being a mature age apprentice, I was excited for a new

adventure and the industrial side of being an electrician is more enticing to me. At Riverina Water I get to work across the region on everything from breakdowns, installs and normal maintenance."

Riverina Water CEO Andrew Crakanthorp said the organisation is committed to investing in education and training.

"We employ a wide range of professions to help supply water to 77,000 people," Mr Crakanthorp said.

"As a significant employer, it's important we contribute to the development of a skilled regional workforce. By investing in the next generation, we are ensuring we have qualified staff into the future."



### Grant program helps tackle single-use plastic problem

Disability support service Kurrajong has installed four bottle-filling stations after previously relying on single-use plastic bottled water.

The stations were made possible through \$10,000 in funding from the Community Grants Program. Riverina Water has previously funded community garden beds at Kurrajong's Hildasid Farm through the program.

### Water issues?

If you're experiencing issues with water supply or a water related emergency, please call us on **6922 0608** 24 hours a day, seven days a week



# Providing safe and affordable drinking water to you for more than 25 years

We have a long and proud history of supplying drinking water to the Riverina region.

In 2022, Riverina Water County Council marked 25 years since the local water utility was formed.

However, our story stretches back further than 1997.

## Southern Riverina County Council

In 1938, the Southern Riverina County Council was incorporated to make reticulated water available to towns and villages in the shires of Lockhart, Kyeamba, Mitchell and part of Culcairn Shire.

The remaining part of Culcairn Shire and the shires of Urana and Holbrook was later added, as was the Municipality of Wagga Wagga in 1945.

In 1981 Kyeamba and Mitchell Shire areas were included in Wagga Wagga City Council area.

The infrastructure constructed in 1938 soon became part of an expansive network of treatment plants, pumps, reservoirs and pipework; supplying water to many towns and villages across the region.

## Not just water

From 1942 to 1995, Southern Riverina County Council was also responsible for the distribution of electricity in the area.

The formation of the large electricity distributor, Great Southern Energy, in 1995 led to a review of water supply administration and the formation of Riverina Water in 1997.

## An industry leading water utility

Riverina Water commenced on 1 July 1997, specifically for the purpose of water supply, and operates under the NSW Local Government Act.

Today, it is an industry leading water



ABOVE: Boree Creek reservoir construction in 1951.

ABOVE LEFT: Water main construction in Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga in the 1960s.

LEFT: The original waterworks building.



BELOW LEFT: Switching on the new Water Treatment plant in 2021.



BELOW: Staff working on the Bulgary scheme in the 1980s.



utility, providing safe and reliable drinking water to more than 77,000 people across 15,000 square kilometres.

The expansive supply area covers the Wagga Wagga, Lockhart and parts of the Federation and Greater Hume council areas.

"Twenty-five years into our story, Riverina Water is the largest inland water utility in NSW and sixth biggest overall in the state, with more than 33,000 connections across our network," Riverina Water CEO Andrew Crakanthorp said.

"While many things have changed since 1938, our commitment to providing you with safe and reliable drinking water at the lowest sustainable cost remains the same.

"From the expertise of our staff to the guidance of our Board, we continue to deliver vital infrastructure projects, plan for region's future and ensure all of our services that support water delivery are at a high standard.

"Our community and customers can be proud of their water supplier; we are certainly proud of the work we do."

## Connect with us

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