15 February, 2010

MINISTER INSPECTS KEEPIT DAM UPGRADE

Minister for Lands, Tony Kelly, today inspected works being undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), as part of the NSW Government's $146 million upgrade of Keepit Dam at Tamworth.

“SCS won an open tender worth $914,000 to construct two access roads and two saddle dams,” the Minister said.

“It’s one of the first stages of the upgrade announced last month by Minister for Water, Phillip Costa.

“The job is being undertaken by SCS’s Northern Tablelands works team based out of Quirindi.

“The two roads will benefit workers on site and minimise disruption to members of the public travelling to and from Lake Keepit State Park.

“The purpose of a saddle dam is to prevent overflow from the dam in times of flood.”

SCS is a division of the Land and Property Management Authority and is working alongside private contractor John Holland which is constructing the main saddle dam and two spillways.

Mr Kelly said the SCS component of the project is expected to be completed by mid April.

“The overall project, under the management of State Water, is scheduled to be completed in 2013,” the Minister said.

“It will bring the dam in line with contemporary safety standards and improve its environmental performance.

“A project of this size will also stimulate the local economy and support up to 30 jobs.”