

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

About the project

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, near Imbil southwest of Gympie, involves the development of pumped hydro energy storage at Lake Borumba.

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project will be capable of producing 2,000 MW and storing up to 24 hours of energy.

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project requires expansion of the existing Lake Borumba (the lower reservoir) and a new dam to be constructed at a higher altitude to create an upper reservoir. An underground power station will link the two reservoirs to enable water to be pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, and for water released from the upper reservoir to drive turbines to generate electricity.

What's in this issue

Welcome to the second edition of the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project newsletter. This newsletter provides an update on the detailed analytical studies, what's next for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project and our ongoing stakeholder engagement activities.

Update on the Detailed Analytical Report (DAR)

Queensland Hydro completed a range of studies in 2022 to support the DAR for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project including:



Queensland Hydro has finalised the DAR for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project. The DAR was provided to the Queensland Government in late March for its consideration and investment decision.

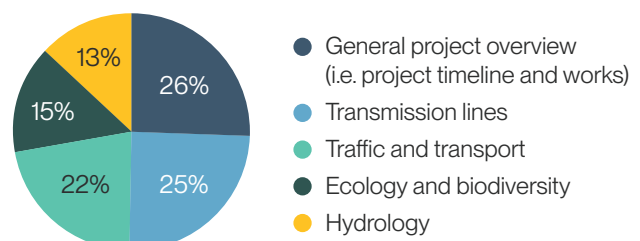
Recap of project engagement during the DAR development

During 2022, the project team completed a range of activities to engage and listen to our landholders, community, and other stakeholders. Our engagement activities included:

- information sessions in Imbil and Gympie
- focused discussions with our environmental and traffic and transport stakeholders
- one-to-one meetings with landholders and other stakeholders
- Stakeholder Reference Group meetings.

Queensland Hydro will continue to engage and work with the community and our stakeholders in 2023 to address these top issues and concerns, and any other emerging project concerns and issues.

From the engagement activities, our stakeholder have told us that their top concerns and issues are around:



Next stages for the project

The next project stage involves obtaining approvals at State and Federal levels to progress the proposed Exploratory Works. We will also start the process to obtain Main works approvals at State and Federal levels in parallel. Running both processes in parallel enables Queensland Hydro to be well positioned to commence on-ground works once a financial investment decision is made by the Queensland Government government. More information about the two processes is provided below.

Exploratory works

Undertaking exploratory works will increase our understanding of the geotechnical conditions of the project footprint. A comprehensive understanding of area's geology and ground conditions is important to helping us improve the project's design and reduces a range engineering, environmental, and financial risks.

The work involves exploratory drilling (i.e. excavating soil and rock) of a D-shaped shaft, about 8 m in diameter, along the proposed emergency, communication and ventilation tunnel (ECVT) alignment to the proposed location of the underground powerhouse as well as surface based geotechnical drilling across the project footprint.

Other associated works supporting the exploratory drilling include:

- minor road works on Bella Creek and Borgan roads to allow safe access to site
- construction of an on-site access road and supporting infrastructure (i.e. a temporary construction camp, site office, and material and equipment storage)
- on-site spoil movement and stockpile.

More information on the exploratory works can be found in the *Exploratory Drilling and Support Works Poster* on the project website.

A referral for the exploratory works under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is underway. Additional public consultation will occur after Queensland Hydro provides the additional information required to assess the referral. We are also working closely with the Queensland Government to identify the appropriate State approval pathway for the exploratory works. Subject to Federal and State approvals, the on-ground exploratory works is planned to start in late 2023 and throughout 2024. Queensland Hydro will update the community and stakeholders when a final decision is made.

Main works

Queensland Hydro is looking to progress the environmental and planning approvals at both State and Federal levels.

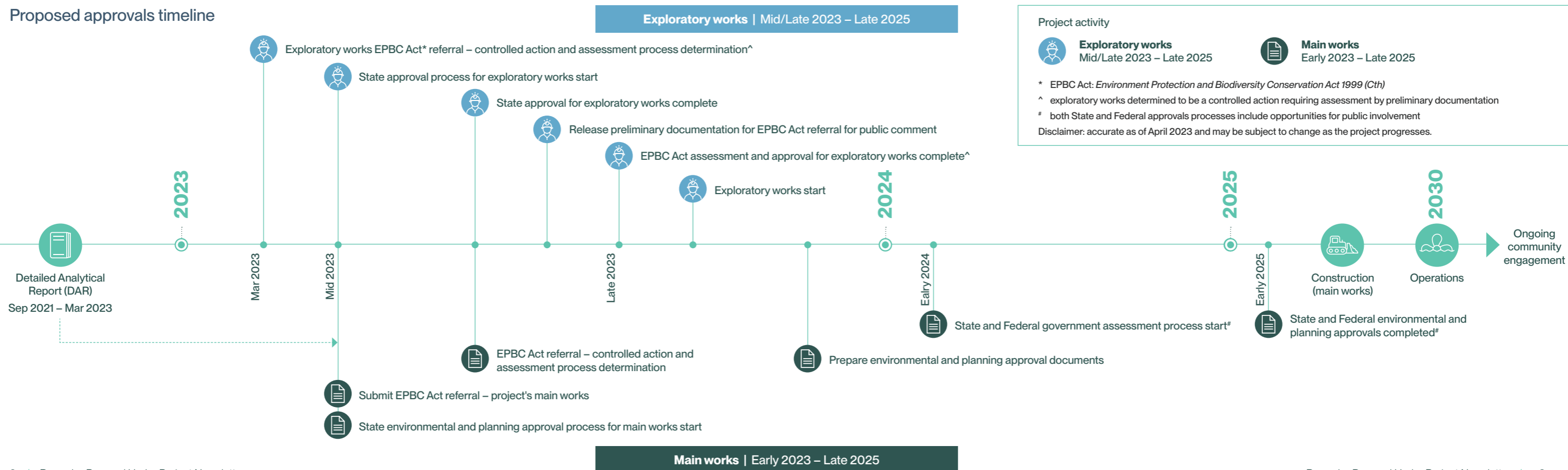
A detailed assessment of the potential environmental and social impacts of the project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts resulting from the construction, commissioning, operations, and decommissioning of the main works is required. The assessment must also include measures proposed by Queensland Hydro to avoid, minimise, and/or offset the potential project impacts identified. Community and stakeholder consultation will be critical in the development and approvals of the main works.

Throughout the planning and approvals process, there will be various public consultation opportunities where stakeholders and the community can talk directly to the project team. Queensland Hydro is committed to ongoing engagement and encourages feedback and comments from stakeholders and the community at all stages of the project.

Environmental and planning approvals

Queensland Hydro is preparing a fact sheet to describe the planning and approval process for the project in greater detail. This will cover both the State and Federal pathways.

Proposed approvals timeline



Transmission study update

Powerlink has been progressing their study for new transmission infrastructure required to connect the proposed Borumba Pumped Hydro Project to the existing electricity transmission network. Due to the potential generation and storage capacity of the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, new transmission infrastructure will be needed from the proposed pumped hydro facility at Lake Borumba to existing Powerlink substations at Tarong/Halys and Woolooga.

Between November 2022 to February 2023, the Powerlink project team hosted several community information drop-in sessions across local communities including Kilkivan, Woolooga, Imbil, Manumbar, Widgee, Amamoor, Kandanga, Gympie, Jimna, Yarraman, Nanango, Linville, Blackbutt, Kilcoy, Maidenwell, Moore and Kumbia.

Community and stakeholder feedback and insights from these sessions will help Powerlink identify the corridor that best manages the social, environment and economic impacts of the proposed transmission line development.

Powerlink will publish a Draft Corridor Selection Report with a recommended corridor in April 2023.

Queensland Hydro will continue to work closely with Powerlink as both the pumped hydro and transmission projects progress to the next stages.

Introducing the new Project Director for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

In March 2023, Queensland Hydro welcomed the new Project Director for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, Leah McKenzie. Leah brings over 18 years of project planning and project management experience, having worked at major infrastructure projects in Australia and overseas.

Leah takes over from Chris Gwynne, who has accepted the role as Head of Strategy and Planning.

Leah's wealth of experience with our industry and business means you are assured a smooth handover and absolute continuity of leadership and operational delivery.

Members of the community will begin to see Leah in and around the local Borumba area and attending community and stakeholder events.

Get in touch

If you have any questions or would like to receive project email updates, please speak with our communications and stakeholder team via borumba@qldhydro.com.au.



Contact us

1800 433 939

borumba@qldhydro.com.au

qldhydro.com.au

ABN 81 661 444 515

