Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

Update December 2021

The Queensland Government has committed to unlock renewable investment and to achieve a renewable energy target of 50% by 2030. As part of delivering on this commitment, the Queensland Government has selected Powerlink to carry out detailed analytical studies for a potential pumped hydro facility at Borumba Dam.

What is pumped hydro?

Pumped hydro energy storage is a closed system that moves water between two reservoirs constructed at different heights.

To operate, a pumped hydro generator uses electricity from the grid or nearby renewables to pump water from the lower reservoir into the upper reservoir. To generate electricity, water is then released back into the lower reservoir through a turbine. Pumped hydro is flexible, reliable, and complements renewable energy generation such as solar and wind. Pumped hydro will play a vital role in the transformation of the energy system to renewable energy and will support a more diverse generation mix across Queensland.

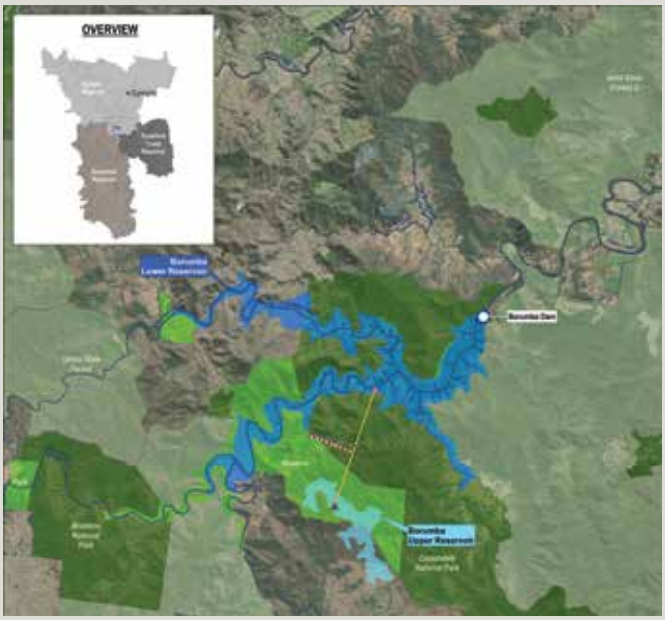
What is happening now?

From initial studies carried out by the Queensland Government, Borumba Dam has been identified as one of the best potential sites for pumped hydro in Queensland.

Borumba Dam itself is now more than 60 years old and requires significant upgrades by late 2035 to comply with dam safety guidelines.

Powerlink is carrying out detailed environmental and engineering studies, commencing in 2022, to refine our knowledge of the pumped hydro potential at Borumba Dam.

Studies will cover a range of important environmental factors including water quality and availability and aquatic species, and the potential effects of any inundation. Powerlink will be actively working with landholders, the community and Traditional Owner and environmental groups during the course of these studies.



Queensland Government

Next steps

Powerlink, with support from consultants SMEC and Ranbury, will carry out detailed analytical studies in 2022. Powerlink will use stakeholder input to make an informed decision about the Borumba Dam site and the scope of the detailed analytical studies.

Outcomes from the investigations and analysis will inform a detailed analytical report. This will enable the Queensland Government to make an informed decision about whether the project will proceed to further detailed design and construction stages. Approvals such as an environmental impact statement would be an important part of the development and approvals process for the project.

Project activities

- **Detailed analytical studies**
- **Front end engineering design**
- **Financial and economic analysis**
- **Preparation and submission of detailed analytical report**
- **Ongoing stakeholder engagement**

Have your say

We encourage the community to provide feedback on the project by attending one of our information sessions or through our communication channels.

The Queensland Government and Powerlink are committed to engaging early and often with the community throughout the project.

Attend an information session

Drop in to an information session to speak to the project team and find out more.

SESSION 1:

WHEN: Wednesday 1 December 2021, 3pm to 7pm
WHERE: Mary Valley Memorial Hall, 127 Yabba Road, Imbil

SESSION 2:

WHEN: Thursday 2 December 2021, 3pm to 7pm
WHERE: Gympie RSL, 217 Mary Street, Gympie

Contact us

1800 635 369

borumba@powerlink.com.au

Visit the project web page **www.powerlink.com.au/borumba** to register your interest in the project

Queensland Government