

Meeting Notes

Meeting name	Borumba Project Stakeholder Reference Group
Location	Queensland Hydro Project Office, 6 Imbil Island Road, Imbil
Date and time	Tuesday 27 February 2024, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Attendees	<p>Stakeholder Reference Group Members: Bruce Horsfall (Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association), Carolyn Harris (adjoining landholder), Dan O'Regan (HQ Plantations Pty Ltd), David Arthur (Wide Bay-Burnett Environment Council), Don MacAulay (Mary Valley Fishing Club), Gary Rozynski (local irrigator), Glenda Pickersgill (Save the Mary River Coordinating Group), Graeme Elphinstone (Gympie District Beef Liaison Group), Ian Mackay (Conondale Range Conservation Association), Ian Stehbens (local community member), Janelle Parker (Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce), Luke Barden (Plumbers Union QLD), Narelle McCarthy (Sunshine Coast Environmental Council), Nigel Parratt (proxy for Dave Copeman, Queensland Conservation Council), Steve Burgess (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee)</p> <p>Project Representatives (Queensland Hydro): Julie Spencer, Leah McKenzie, Cindy Thomas, Michael Price, Nirvana Searle, Lynda Williams, Kelly Garrett</p> <p>Guest presenters: Melissa Williams (Office of the Coordinator-General), Kelsey Hanson (Office of the Coordinator-General), Kate Weir (Office of the Coordinator-General),</p> <p>Facilitators: Leisa Prowse, Leisa Prowse Consulting (Meeting Facilitator), Brooke Williams, Fourfold Studio (Workshop Facilitator)</p>
Apologies	Dave Copeman, Queensland Conservation Council Petra Van Beek, Gympie Chamber of Commerce Sotera Trevasakis, Regional Development Australia Wide Bay-Burnett

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Agenda Item	Notes and Actions
	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Queensland Hydro opened the meeting and introduced the meeting's independent facilitator.</p>
1.0	Introduction and housekeeping
Slide 3	<p>The meeting facilitator (LP) welcomed the attendees and provided an overview of the meeting Agenda. LP spoke to the Groups Terms of Reference for SRG meetings.</p> <p>All SRG members, Queensland Hydro representatives, and guests introduced themselves to the group.</p> <p>No conflicts of interest were declared.</p>
2.0	Project Update
Slide 5	<p>Works underway</p> <p>Queensland Hydro (LM) provided an overview of the works underway.</p>

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	<p>New access tracks are being constructed on Queensland Hydro land. Due to the weather, works are approximately 4 weeks from being completed. Once works are completed and if safe to do so, the SRG member Project site visit will be scheduled.</p> <p>Two drill rigs are on site in locations that are already cleared. These rigs ceased operating over the Christmas holiday period and have now recommenced.</p> <p>Local road improvements and minor upgrades are occurring along Bella Creek, Yielo and Borgan Roads.</p> <p>Works to establish the temporary site offices are complete.</p> <p>Environmental investigations are continuing with some investigations occurring 24/7 dependant on what is being investigated. The investigation teams are currently undertaking extensive environmental investigations on Queensland Hydro land and surrounding areas. This work will help inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).</p>
	<p><u>Questions from SRG in relation to current works</u></p> <p>What sort of environmental monitoring is Queensland Hydro undertaking during the upgrading of the tracks?</p> <p>Groundwater monitoring is currently underway with the Project's continued erosion and sediment monitoring and controls in place. Queensland Hydro is conducting monthly surface water monitoring around the site to gather baseline data.</p>
<p>Slides 6 - 7</p>	<p><u>Upcoming works / Current and future procurement activity</u></p> <p>Temporary Bridge Structures (supply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract comprises the supply (fabrication) of temporary bridge structures. Installation of the bridge structures is to be undertaken by the Surface Civil Works contractor. Request for Proposal (RFP) closed 18 October 2023, with contract award scheduled for early-March. <p>Temporary Accommodation Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract includes the design, build, and operation of temporary accommodation camps. RFP closed 25 October 2023, with contract award scheduled for late March/early April 2024. <p>Surface Civil Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of Interest (EOI) closed in late-2023. RFP issued to contractors shortlisted via the EOI process. RFP to close late-March 2024. This package has been amended, with the inclusion of water supply to site. <p>Geotechnical Drilling Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Open' RFP closed 2 February 2024; submissions currently under evaluation. Due to the size, scale and complexity of the geotechnical drilling program, it is likely that several contractors will be appointed and receive Standing Offer Agreements. Work will vary between three types of drilling: shallow (up to 200m), deep (200m+) and groundwater monitoring (up to 30m). <p>Technical Services and Management Support (Geotechnical)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP release has been delayed. <p>Exploratory Tunnelling and Drilling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOI closed in December 2023. Queensland Hydro will contact contractors shortlisted via the EOI process shortly. <p>Permanent Road Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Open' RFP closed 14 February 2024; submissions currently under evaluation. Package includes the haulage route road upgrades optioneering. Queensland Hydro is working with Gympie Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council regarding these proposed works.

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	<p>Lower and Upper Dams Design Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Hydro is seeking to engage a suitably qualified Dams Designer to progress the designs of the Upper and Lower Reservoirs and assist in the process of engaging Dam Construction Partners. They will then work collaboratively with Queensland Hydro and the respective Dam Construction Partners to deliver the reservoirs. Locally based design resources will be required. Procurement industry briefing held 15 February 2024. 'Open' RFP commenced 12 February 2024, closing 29 March 2024. <p>PHES Design Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland Hydro is seeking to engage a suitably qualified design firm (or consortium) to deliver the design of the Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES). This work will support the delivery of the Main Works for the Project including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underground Civil Works (power station complex, cavern and tunnels) OEM Equipment Supply (turbines and balance of plant). EOI to open for three (3) weeks commencing 29 February 2024, closing 28 March 2024. Shortlisted Proponents will be invited to participate in a select RFP process commencing April 2024. Contract Award is scheduled for June/July 2024.
	<p><u>Questions from SRG in relation to upcoming works / current and upcoming tenders</u></p> <p>Who are the contractors being considered for the Temporary Workers Accommodation Camps (TWAC) and Surface Civil Works packages?</p> <p>Queensland Hydro has engaged with stakeholders regarding the tenders for both contracts. Engagement has included the Unions such as the Plumbers Union prior to procurement. Engagement with third parties has been suspended to uphold probity requirements throughout the procurement process. As this matter is confidential, no additional details can be disclosed at this time.</p> <p>SRG representative noted that the Union would like to escalate this to the CEO.</p> <p><u>ACTION: Queensland Hydro will confirm what information can be provided to those persons not included in the procurement process.</u></p> <p>Has Queensland Hydro mapped the proposed permanent road design?</p> <p>The first stage of the Project road design has been mapped. A haulage route assessment will be undertaken and will consider the 'port to site' route. This will identify what routes will need to be taken to haul equipment from its location (e.g., Port of Brisbane) to the Project site. The assessment will include any potential by-pass route, on-site roads, and flood immunity roads.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro acknowledged there is a potential by-pass road to be constructed along the Old Forestry Road. Queensland Hydro is in discussion with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) regarding Yabba Creek Road. On completion of the route assessment, Queensland Hydro will be able to provide further information on proposed haulage routes.</p> <p>A Traffic Impact Assessment will be included in the EIS process. This will identify potential impacts to the local road networks.</p> <p>SRG member advised TMR are undertaking road surveys along various roads to the current dam with instructions to survey above and below every bridge 500m. Does this mean the main haulage route will be through the township of Imbil?</p> <p>Queensland Hydro will help with upgrades to Yabba Creek Road, which will remain as a long-term road safety legacy benefit for all future road users. There are currently 8 timber one-lane bridges on Yabba Creek Road that are impacted by flooding. Queensland Hydro is investigating the opportunity to upgrade these bridges to concrete structures and widen the road to two lanes. This will lessen the length of time roads are closed due to flooding and provide a long-term road safety benefit for the community.</p>

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	<p>Exploratory works traffic will travel through Imbil and along Yabba Creek Road through to Bella Creek Road.</p> <p>A haulage route is preferred to bypass the township of Imbil via the Old Forestry Drive.</p> <p>What is the timeframe for the by-pass haulage route to commence?</p> <p>This will be identified in the haulage route assessment. A by-pass route is anticipated to be ready before the commencement of the main works in late 2025 to early 2026.</p> <p>How long will it take you to build the by-pass route?</p> <p>The tender to undertake the route assessment and design works is currently closed and under evaluation. The design will inform the construction timeframe.</p> <p>What size of equipment will be coming through the township of Imbil for the exploratory works?</p> <p>Equipment type is yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>SRG member sought confirmation that Queensland Hydro will not be increasing the height of the Yabba Creek Road bridges, but will be upgrading them to concrete, two lane bridges.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro confirmed that is correct. To increase the bridge height, it would require significant changes to the existing connecting road which is outside of the scope.</p> <p>SRG member highlighted the need for bridge crossing upgrades to #1 and #6 as well as #7 and Bella Creek.</p> <p>Once survey works have been completed, design work can begin.</p> <p>SRG member queried whether the civil works package includes the transfer of potable water to the camp sites.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro advised the civil works package includes water transfer for non-potable water for equipment e.g., drill rigs. Potable water is separate and will be trucked in and taken off site, post use, to local treatment plants.</p> <p>The Forrest Road upgrade goes through sub-tropical rainforest areas and will trigger the EPBC Act – How is Queensland Hydro addressing this?</p> <p>As this package of work has not yet been awarded, the environmental impacts have not been investigated.</p>
3.0	Approvals Update
Slide 9	<p><u>Exploratory Works Approvals</u></p> <p>Queensland Hydro is currently responding to the request for further information from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). Following this, once DCCEEW are satisfied with the documentation, the approval stage will move to 'public comment' where community can provide feedback on the preliminary documentation for the EPBC Act assessment.</p>

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<p>Slides 10 - 11</p>	<p><u>Main Works Approval Milestones</u></p> <p>In December 2023, the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water advised Queensland Hydro the Commonwealth Government determined that the Project main works is considered a Controlled Action, requiring assessment via an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).</p> <p>In January 2024, the Department of State Development and Infrastructure (formally known as the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) declared the Borumba Project as a 'Prescribed' and 'Critical Infrastructure' Project.</p> <p>The Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) has been compiled by the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) and is open for public comment from Saturday 17 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024. The draft TOR can be viewed via:</p> <p>Online: www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/BorumbaPHES</p> <p>In person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imbil Library, 125 Yabba Road, Imbil • Gympie Library, 8-14 Mellor Street, Gympie • Esk Library, 19 Heap Street, Esk • Cooroy Library, 9 Maple Street, Cooroy • State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Brisbane • National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Canberra. <p>Public submissions can be made via:</p> <p>Online: by clicking the 'Make a comment' link at: www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/BorumbaPHES</p> <p>Email: BorumbaPHESproject@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au</p> <p>Post: Attention: Coordinator-General C/- EIS Project Manager – Borumba PHES project Office of the Coordinator-General PO Box 15517 City East Qld 4002 Australia</p> <p>Note: If you wish to attach anything (e.g., maps, images or supporting documents), please use the email option instead of the online form.</p>
<p>Slide 12</p>	<p><u>Presentation from the OCG</u></p> <p>The OCG provided a brief overview of the EIS process under the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> (SDPWO Act), advising the draft TOR for the Borumba Project has been released and is currently open for public comment. This includes the requirement for assessment for the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the public comment on the draft TOR, the OCG will review all comments provided by interested parties. The final TOR will then be issued to Queensland Hydro to define expectations for the EIS content.</p> <p>Once a draft EIS is developed by Queensland Hydro, the OCG will review the draft EIS to ensure it satisfies the TOR. There would then be opportunity for public comment on the draft EIS. A revision of the draft EIS/additional information may be requested from Queensland Hydro, dependant on submissions received.</p> <p>The OCG would then prepare the Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report (CGER), that would detail the outcomes of the assessment, with recommendations for conditions for the Project.</p> <p>The OCG highlighted the areas on Slide 14 when the public have the opportunity to comment. The CGER would also provide recommendations to the Commonwealth to inform a decision under the EPBC Act.</p>

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	<p>The OCG referenced previous discussion in the meeting regarding the Borumba Project's milestone dates (slide 15).</p> <p>Screen shots of the draft TOR were provided to the members (slides 16 – 17) to outline the content of the draft TOR to demonstrate the types of information required – highlighting Section 8 of the document. Section 8 identifies what specific matters Queensland Hydro needs to address in the EIS. These matters, particularly the 'Matters of National Significance' have been developed in close collaboration with DCCEE (the Commonwealth agency).</p> <p>The OCG highlighted the 'Preparing an EIS guideline' document referenced in the draft TOR (slide 18). The document outlines the requirements consistent for all OCG EIS projects.</p> <p>Stakeholder and public comments to the OCG on the draft terms of reference are now open. The OCG's role is to analyse the comments in finalising the terms of reference.</p> <p>Future comment periods would be available on the draft EIS once the Coordinator-General decides that the EIS meets the requirements of the TOR and can be publicly notified. The OCG's role in this process is to analyse submissions to inform evaluation of the project. The OCG would also request additional information (if required) following analysis of issues raised in submissions.</p> <p>The OCG advised that Queensland Hydro has lodged a request with the OCG for an additional works regulation regarding local government approval processes for the exploratory works. This is currently under consideration by the OCG.</p>
	<p><u>Questions from SRG in relation to the EIS process</u></p> <p>Slide 13: Please explain the process for community comments to the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Because this process is being assessed as an 'accredited assessment', the comments process includes the OCG collating comments relating to the Commonwealth assessment with recommendations on the Project for both State and Commonwealth considerations. The OCG will engage with the Commonwealth on final TOR requirements for Commonwealth assessment matters under the EPBC Act. The Commonwealth still has a decision-making power following the OCG's EIS evaluation process, CGER and recommendations. The draft TOR contains the requirements from Local, State and Commonwealth agencies.</p> <p>Slide 14: SRG member voiced concern about concurrent exploratory works and EIS process. Asked how the feasibility study aspects of exploratory works can feed into main works approvals if they occur concurrently? The member felt that communication materials should say 'proposed' project. Member feels that the project will not be subject to rigorous environmental approvals. The member expressed concerns the State and Commonwealth have made a commitment to UNESCO the Borumba Project will proceed.</p> <p>The OCG advised the Federal Environmental Minister is not constrained in making her final decision, that the OCG makes recommendations. The OCG reiterated to the member the Project impact assessment/approval process is at the very early stages. The process is the same for all large projects that require an environmental assessment via an EIS. The feasibility process occurring at the same time as the EIS process is common. It is important the two processes run concurrently as the EIS process will likely inform the feasibility of the Project. The role of the OCG is to coordinate an assessment that includes all requirements from regulators at Local, State, and Federal levels.</p> <p><u>ACTION: Queensland Hydro took on notice to investigate the members comments regarding government commitments made to UNESCO.</u></p> <p>Are 'facilitated impacts' being considered?</p> <p>The draft TOR includes a section on cumulative impacts, but it is also included within the 'matters of national environmental significance' section of the document for direct, indirect, facilitated and cumulative impacts.</p>

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	<p>Can you provide an example of a facilitated impact as it's not clearly defined in the draft TOR?</p> <p>Facilitated is defined as those impacts that flow from the Project that are not categorised as indirect impacts.</p> <p>Who decides if the revised draft EIS is publicly notified (slide 14)?</p> <p>The Coordinator- General makes the determination, informed by the extent of the additional information requested following analysis of issues raised in submissions on the draft EIS, or extent of any proposed project changes.</p> <p>There is reference to the Water Plan? What document is being referenced?</p> <p>The TOR refers to the plan that is in force currently. The TOR guideline does reference that if there are changes to key pieces of policy and regulation, the most current, enforced version must be used.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro reinforced the need for the SRG and engagement with the local community as it is important to obtain local knowledge to feed into the EIS. The OCG highlighted the importance of community engagement through the EIS process and beyond.</p> <p>SRG Member asked if the works regulation discussed was for the TWACs.</p> <p>The OCG advised the works regulation for the TWACs has already been determined and is available on the OCG's website.</p> <p>What is a prescribed project and critical infrastructure project?</p> <p>A prescribed project declaration enables the Coordinator-General, if necessary, to intervene in state and local government approval processes to ensure timely decision-making for the prescribed project. All the same decision-making rules are used. It is very rare these powers are enacted. A critical infrastructure designation enables the Minister to register a 'critical infrastructure easement' over existing public utility easements to be used for multiple purposes.</p>
4.0	Engagement Update
Slide 23	<p><u>Focus Groups</u></p> <p>Queensland Hydro will be reviewing how they can support the SRG in providing and gathering information to/from members and the community through a pending formal evaluation process. SRG members will be contacted and surveyed on how the group is performing and operating. This will occur over the coming weeks.</p> <p>A series of focus groups will be established in response to member feedback and to input with the EIS process. SRG members and community will be able to submit interest to participate via an EOI process. Groups will be limited in size and member selection will consider diversity and equity.</p>
	<p><u>Questions from SRG in relation to Focus Groups</u></p> <p>Even though Powerlink have a group on transmission lines, will there be a Focus Group on transmission lines? If not, this will need to be clearly stated to those considering submitting an EOI.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro confirmed engagement regarding the transmissions lines is undertaken by Powerlink. Community interested in transmission lines may be identified via the EOI process.</p>
Slide 24	<p><u>Community Engagement</u></p> <p>Community Connects will commence this month.</p> <p>A new fact sheet, 'Understanding our supporting works' is available in print and on the Queensland Hydro website.</p>

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	<p>Queensland Hydro is undertaking drop-in engagement with local Imbil businesses on a regular basis to answer any questions business may have regarding the project.</p> <p>Weather permitting Queensland Hydro will schedule a site visit for SRG members.</p> <p>Action: Queensland Hydro to email SRG members to obtain interest in attending a site visit.</p>
	<p>Break</p>
	<p>Queensland Hydro's environmental team, and Glenda Pickersgill (Save the Mary River Coordinating Group) left the meeting.</p>
5.0	Workshop – Community Benefits Framework
	<p>The Community Benefits Framework is a draft framework Queensland Hydro is seeking community feedback on.</p> <p>The SRG has previously discussed values and opportunities for improvements within the community. Gympie Regional Council has also identified opportunities with Queensland Hydro for funding assistance for community projects where council has already undertaken community consultation. Moving forward Queensland Hydro would like to understand how and where the community believes funding should be directed. Feedback from community is sought on the draft Framework as the first step in this process.</p> <p>The draft framework identifies the vision, shared values and strategic priorities for initiative selection across four key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy and education • Health and wellbeing • Environment and sustainability • Culture and connection <p>Queensland Hydro developed the draft Framework based on consultation and engagement over the last 18 months. It is a first draft, and feedback from the community is required to ensure the approach aligns with community needs and aspirations.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro asked SRG members to help spread the word amongst their groups about this opportunity to give feedback.</p> <p>It is important to note the framework is an overarching, guiding document. Once the framework is finalised, the next step will be implementation of the community benefits fund. Today, Queensland Hydro is collecting feedback from the SRG as part of this consultation process.</p> <p>Brooke Williams facilitated the Community Benefits Framework workshop with SRG members. The SRG members were the first to participate in these workshops. Future workshops will be available for other stakeholders and community members in April 2024.</p>
	<p><u>Questions from SRG in relation to the Community Benefits Framework</u></p> <p>Can you please describe how the Community Benefits Framework relates to the Projects approvals process?</p> <p>The Community Benefits Framework is not part of the approvals process. However, we know that our operations are already having an impact on our local community. This is why we want to invest in the community now; to help support and deliver positive and lasting outcomes whether the project is approved or not.</p>
6.0	Wrap up
	<p>As stated in the SRG Terms of Reference (ToR), an evaluation will be undertaken of the current ToR and Group. As part of this evaluation a link to an online survey will be sent to SRG members for completion.</p> <p>SRG member key takeaways/comments from the meeting:</p>

Commented [JS1]: @Lynda Williams I am going to email about this section as I don't think it is right just yet and is really important.

Commented [LW2R1]: Updated as per Melanie's email

Agenda Item	Notes and Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRG members acknowledged the significance of continuing to foster open and candid dialogue during meetings, and advising how members feedback has been integrated into the Project. • SRG member highlighted the language used in the Community Benefits Framework document should reflect the assessment/approval process stages and should not make assumptions. • The implementation of the Community Benefits Framework is progressing. • SRG member recognition that 'community benefits' have already commenced within the local community. Member noted that Queensland Hydro has already undertaken actions to minimise negative community impacts and asked these actions should be communicated to the community eg dust suppression, call-point signage on Bella Creek Road. • Queensland Hydro has an intent to replace and upgrade the wooden bridges on Yabba Creek Road. • SRG member expressed his need to feel the approvals processes isn't compromised by prior government commitments, however recognised and appreciates Queensland Hydro team's genuineness for wanting positive outcomes. • Appreciated was shown for the OCG's presentation that demonstrated their expert knowledge across their portfolio. • SRG members stated the process for the exploratory works and assessment was being done well with an agreement on the process. This is creating confidence for future processes. • SRG member requested feedback be given to the Minister's Office that the SRG would welcome more notice on large announcements. Notice will allow members the opportunity to prepare and respond better to community and media questions. • SRG member requested the Minister and Officers from the Department be invited to the next SRG meeting for a general project and process update. • SRG member requested at the next meeting Queensland Hydro provide its assessment data sheet being used for water quality monitoring, providing a two-way learning opportunity.
	<p>Meeting closed: 4.10pm</p>