

Meeting Minutes

Meeting name	Borumba Pumped Hydro Project - Stakeholder Reference Group extraordinary meeting
Location	Online [Microsoft Teams]
Date and time	Wednesday 8 November 2023, 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Attendees	<p>Environment group members: Narelle McCarthy (Sunshine Coast Environmental Council), Glenda Pickersgill (Save the Mary River Coordinating Group, Nigel Parratt (proxy for Dave Copeman, Queensland Conservation Council), Ian Mackay (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee) with Steve Burgess as a Guest of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>Business representative members: Luke Barden (Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union)</p> <p>Community members: Carolyn Harris (adjoining landholder)</p> <p>Project representatives: Leah McKenzie, Travis Graham, Nirvana Searle, Michael Price, Julie Spencer, Cindy Thomas, Lynda Williams, Georgia Southern</p>
Apologies	<p>Environment group members: Dave Copeman (Queensland Conservation Council)</p>

Meeting purpose

Meeting purpose was to provide further detail regarding the EPBC Referral submission.

Minutes

Agenda item	Minutes and Actions
Welcome and introductions	<p>JS welcomed stakeholder reference group (SRG) members and thanked all for their time.</p> <p>JS spoke to Acknowledgement of Country.</p> <p>JS led introductions of Queensland Hydro staff.</p>
Controlled Action Status	MP spoke to slides #7 and #8 regarding Main Works approval pathways.
Exploratory work approvals update	<p>MP spoke to slide #9 regarding the exploratory works approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been no change in this process since the group last met.
Ecological assessments	<p>MP spoke to slide #10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listed work detailed on slide 10 has already been undertaken that supported the Detailed Analytical Report (DAR), Coordinated Project application and the EPBC Referral application. - Listed works assisted Queensland Hydro's design team for the exploratory and main works. - MP recognised there are gaps however stated the intent is that these will be addressed in the EIS process.
Impact reduction	<p>MP spoke to slide #11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping within the Referral highlighted works have been located within Queensland Hydro already cleared land and cleared plantation areas.
Impact assessment on fauna	<p>MP spoke to slide #12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the EPBC Referral, Queensland Hydro identified the residual impact of the listed species aligned with the Residual Impact Guidelines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species have been found onsite however the spotted-tail quoll is the only species that hasn't been seen onsite to date. Verification of this species will be included in the EIS process.
Impact assessment on vegetation / flora	<p>MP spoke to the impact assessment vegetation / flora slide #13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating a new dam and raising the height means the lowland rainforest of subtropical Australia and subtropical eucalypt floodplain forest and woodland are classed as 'Likely' impacted. - The Rhodomyrtus Psidioides (native guava) has not been detected. - Thesium Australe has not been detected by Queensland Hydro however it's known to be in the area. - The other species listed on slide 13 have been identified predominantly in the upper reservoir catchment.
Upcoming ecological studies	<p>MP spoke to the upcoming ecological studies slide #14 and the methodologies listed on slide #16.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further studies will be starting this month and progressing to early next year then on an ongoing basis as needed as part of the EIS process. - Recognition some methodologies have been implemented by SRG members catchment and environmental organisations.
Mitigation	MP spoke to likely mitigation actions detailed on slide #15.
Proposed actions - fauna	<p>MP spoke to proposed actions detailed on slide #17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olive Downs has had success with the use of drones for survey to mitigate against lost, and good uptake in the use of boxes. Queensland Hydro will consult with Olive Downs to obtain learnings from their success.
Proposed actions - vegetation/flora	MP spoke to proposed actions detailed on slide #18.
Offset strategy	<p>MP spoke to Queensland Hydro offset strategy detailed on slide #19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queensland Hydro will be engaging an offset specialists to guide the organisation for a wholistic strategic solution.
First Nations Partnerships	MP spoke to Queensland Hydro's partnership with First Nations peoples detailed on slide #20.
SRG involvement	MP spoke to how the SRG can be involved as detailed on slide #21.
Questions	<p>JS opened the floor for questions and comments from the attending members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SB requested a meeting with MP to discuss the finer details of the presentation. Queensland Hydro to action. - SB advised the MRCCC agreed the project should be a controlled action however they distrust bilateral assessments. SB stated they believe the project requires the highest level of scrutiny. - SB advised the MRCCC's main worry is the scope of what is being referred and the omission of works that could have impacts. Concern was also raised regarding the use of the 'old' Mary Basin Water Plan. - SB advised he has concerns regarding the TEC's and believes there are impacts also not listed in the referral. MP advised the intent is for Queensland Hydro to verify the TEC's through the EIS process, ground truthing rather than relying on habitat mapping. - MP advised construction routes are not included in the Referral as the locations have not yet been determined. Once routes have been determined they will be included as actual impacts through the EIS process. - NM concurred with SB comments and highlighted her concerns having parallel processes through the coordinated project and through the EPBC referral. - NM provided concerns regarding the 10 days given for stakeholders to read the documents to be able to provide comment. JS recognised NM feedback and reiterated the process was not under the control of Queensland Hydro. - CH raised concerns about noise and dust from her neighbours who thought it was 'blasting', and that no notification had been provided. LM advised no blasting had been undertaken to date.

- NP raised concerns that the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) was not included in the referral. MP took this matter on note as Queensland Hydro had been advised by its providers there was no impact. MP confirmed indirect and cumulative impacts will be considered as part of the EIS process.
- GP supported NP's comments.

Next steps	Action: Consideration be given to holding an additional meeting to address the feedback and questions raised by meeting attendees.
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Close	JS thanked those that attended the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- SRG General Meeting – Tuesday 28 November 2023, 9am in person
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Meeting closed 2:17pm
