

# Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project

## Investigation works underway

Investigation works have started in the Pioneer Valley as part of the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project.

During these works, we will be gathering information to build our understanding of the environmental, cultural, social, economic and technical aspect of the Project. The Queensland Government will consider this information as part of their investment decision for the Project.

Over the next 12 months, these works will be progressively carried out across multiple locations within the proposed project footprint, weather and site conditions permitting.

Works will include:

- geotechnical drilling to identify soil and rock types, and ground conditions
- surface and groundwater monitoring
- a range of visual inspections to survey the ecological and cultural heritage values of the area.

Before starting work at each location, we are carefully assessing cultural heritage, the natural environment and biosecurity requirements to ensure appropriate management measures are in place. This includes working with leading experts to minimise any potential impacts of these works on platypus.

All permits required to conduct the investigation works are obtained from the relevant authorities and in accordance with landholder requirements.

During this work, the local community may notice project personnel and vehicles in the area, along with temporary traffic management.

We will be making every effort to ensure impacts to you are minimised and we will continue to keep you updated as work progresses. We thank the local community for their patience and cooperation during these works.

The Pioneer Valley and adjacent ranges in the Burdekin catchment have been identified as a preferred site for long-duration pumped hydro energy storage. The Project will be capable of producing 5,000 MW power and providing up to 24 hours of energy storage.

Pumped hydro will play a vital role in the move to renewable generation. It will help to keep energy prices affordable, reliable and secure for our communities as part of the Queensland Government's Energy and Jobs Plan.

The Project is currently in the investigation phase to better understand its impacts and benefits.

For more information on the different technical studies we are doing, scan the QR code or visit [qldhydro.com.au/pioneer-burdekin](http://qldhydro.com.au/pioneer-burdekin).



Over the last few months, we've enjoyed meeting and talking with local community members at our regular Community Connect sessions.

Protecting and preserving the local environment and the project approval process have been key themes raised at these sessions. We understand others in the community may also be interested, so we've provided more information on these topics below.

Feel free to drop-in to one of our events or contact us if there is anything you want more information on.

## Project environment and planning approvals

The Project is currently undertaking investigations and technical studies that will inform a detailed analytical report. This report will be submitted to the Queensland Government as part of their investment decision for the Project.

If progressed, the Project will move to the next phases of:

1. Exploratory works
2. Main works

Both of these works will require State and Federal approval before progressing.

For the main works, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. This is the highest form of environmental assessment in Queensland. It involves a rigorous assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts, and will build upon the studies currently being done in the investigation phase. There will be opportunities for the community to provide feedback during the EIS, including a formal public consultation period.

We are committed to minimising the potential impacts of the Project and working with local communities who may be affected. We will keep you updated as information about the Project becomes available.



### Quick fact

#### How the reservoirs will hold water

**If the Project proceeds, dam walls will be constructed from concrete and/or rock, and connect to the bedrock to provide a water-tight seal. The reservoirs behind the dam wall are not planned to be concreted, and would consist of the natural topsoil and alluvium existing in the area today.**



## Investigations and platypus management

We recognise the importance of preserving and protecting the unique ecosystems of the Pioneer Valley which includes the platypus habitat.

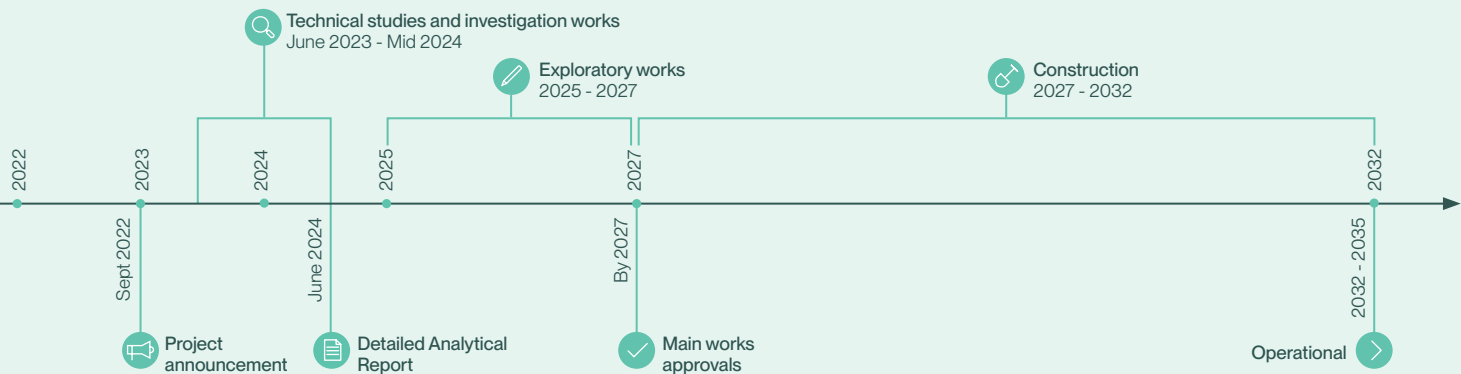
Before commencing investigation works, such as geotechnical drilling, the team has conducted assessments to identify potential risks and developed strategies to minimise harm to the local flora and fauna, including the platypus.

We have developed a Platypus Management Plan in consultation with leading experts to ensure the protection of the platypus during Project works. This Plan assesses the range of works to be carried out and outlines the specific management measures that need to be in place for these works. You can view this Plan on the Project website.

The team is also looking at working with local conservation groups and leading researchers, to ensure the implementation of best practices for platypus conservation. These specialists provide valuable guidance and help in developing specific measures to protect the platypus. Part of our environmental investigation work will involve regular monitoring and surveillance of the platypus populations in the Project area. This includes observing their behaviour and documenting habitat usage.

# Project Timeline

As at June 2023. Project timing is subject to change.



Map showing proposed Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project. This map is subject to change as planning for the Project progresses.

## Stakeholder Reference Group

The first meeting of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) for the Project was held on 4 May 2023. This SRG has been formed to ensure that community feedback and interests are represented and considered during the Project.

The SRG consists of a broad range of members with diverse views and interests including, landowners, environmental organisations, business representatives, Traditional Custodians and community groups.

During the first meeting, the SRG received a Project overview including an update on progress and the current timeline. During the meeting members had the opportunity to ask questions and provided invaluable feedback on the areas of concern for them and their communities.

The SRG will play an important role in capturing and sharing your feedback about the Project. We encourage you to talk to SRG members about the Project to learn more and also raise any concerns you may have.

You can view the meeting minutes and presentation on the Project website.

## Chief Executive Officer appointed

North Queensland local Kieran Cusack has appointed as Queensland Hydro's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Raised in Proserpine, Kieran is excited about returning to Queensland and working on achieving net zero emissions for the State. He joins Queensland Hydro from Snowy Hydro where he held several executive roles, including Project Director for the Snowy 2.0 pumped hydro scheme and General Manager of Generation Operations for Snowy Hydro's hydro-electric power stations.

Kieran and Interim CEO Chris Evans are working together on a seamless leadership transition to ensure certainty and continuity for the local community and stakeholders – and to ensure those potentially affected by the project are well informed.

## About Queensland Hydro

Queensland Hydro is a publicly-owned organisation established to deliver the large-scale hydro assets that will be the cornerstone for the transformation of Queensland's energy system.

The organisation was formed by the Queensland Government in September 2022 following the release of its Energy and Jobs Plan. This plan identified the critical role of long duration pumped hydro energy storage in the State's energy transformation.

To learn more about the Energy and Jobs Plan visit [www.epw.qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan](http://www.epw.qld.gov.au/energyandjobsplan).

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### Upcoming events

We are keen to continue to connecting with the local community and providing opportunities to speak with the project team.

- 20 - 22 June – Mackay Regional Show 2023, Mackay Showgrounds
- 5 July – Community Connect, 13 Anzac Parade, Finch Hatton
- 19 July – Community Connect, 13 Anzac Parade, Finch Hatton

We'll be hosting more information sessions and attending community events in the wider region. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details.

If you can't make any of these times, please contact us directly and we'll arrange an alternative time to meet with you.

### Support

If you need support, Queensland Hydro is offering landowners access to LifeWorks. You can access this free, confidential support by calling 1800 273 865. When you call, select option 3 and tell the operator you are a landowner affected by a Queensland Hydro Project.

### Get in touch

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