

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

Exploratory works fact sheet

Exploratory works

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project involves the development of pumped hydro energy storage system at Lake Borumba, located southwest of Gympie near Imbil. It forms part of the Queensland Government's commitment to transitioning to 80% renewable energy by 2035.

Queensland Hydro is progressing the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project. Given the scale and significance of the project, exploratory investigation work is required.

Exploratory works will help us understand the potential project impacts, the geology of the area and will improve the project's engineering design.

Queensland Hydro is engaging with both the State and Federal governments in relation environmental and planning approval for exploratory work. Geotechnical investigations will be undertaken in stages. The investigations for each stage will start when the necessary approvals have been granted. If the necessary approvals are not granted, the site will be rehabilitated.

Exploratory tunnel drilling

This work will involve excavating soil and rock in a D-shaped tunnel to allow drilling equipment to access the proposed underground powerhouse cavern.

Exploratory geotechnical tunnel drilling will complement surface geotechnical investigations to increase our understanding of ground conditions and inform the project design.

If the Project receives the necessary approvals, the exploratory tunnel is planned to be repurposed and become the permanent cable tunnel. If the necessary approvals are not granted, the area will be rehabilitated.

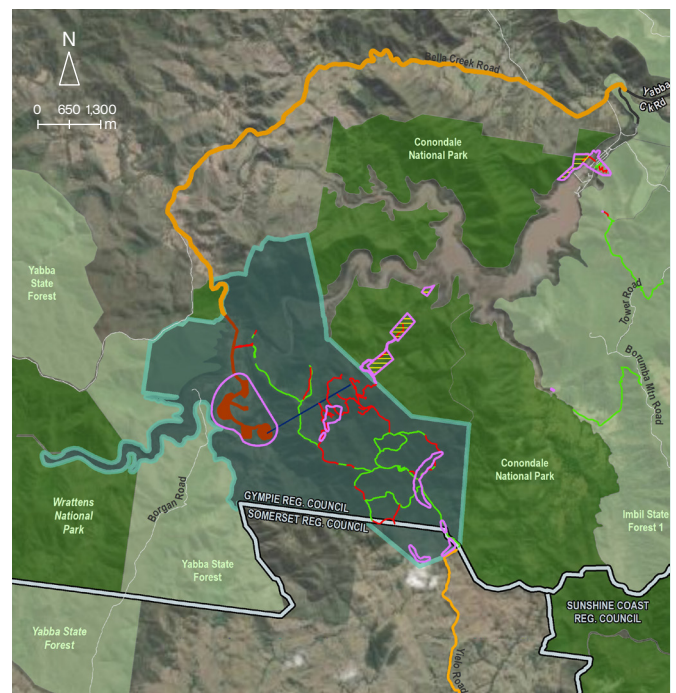
Blast and drilling methods would be used to remove the excavated material (spoil). This method is more efficient than using a tunnel boring machine due to the short length of the tunnel and availability of local expertise.

Exploratory works being carried out

Queensland Hydro is carrying out various exploratory investigation and support works from late-2023 to 2025. The work will happen concurrently with the Project's environmental impact assessment and approvals processes for main works.

Exploratory works include:

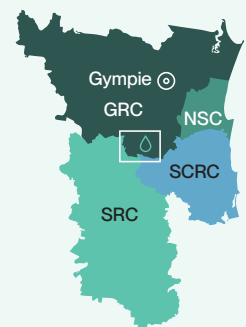
- exploratory tunnel drilling
- geotechnical investigations
- minor road improvements
- constructing access tracks
- constructing supporting infrastructure
- establishing spoil stockpile area/s.



Legend

- National park
- State forest
- Queensland Hydro land holding
- Existing tracks to upgrade
- Proposed new access tracks
- Possible investigation area for road improvement work
- Exploratory tunnel
- Tunnel support infrastructure area
- Conondale Resource Reserve
- Possible geotechnical investigation area and access

Overview



Indicative locations of exploratory works, subject to approvals. Workers camps are also likely to be required during exploratory works. Further information on the location of camp/s will be shared when available.

Geotechnical investigations

Geotechnical investigations include drilling boreholes to identify soil and rock types and subsurface conditions in and around the project area. Water monitoring bores will also be installed during geotechnical investigations, to monitor ground water levels. A team of workers will spend about one week working at each borehole site. Potential impacts to nearby residents may include some truck movements along public roads and noise from drilling works.

The project team will seek to minimise any impacts on the community and residents during this time. Upon completion of drilling, each borehole site will be restored as close to its original condition as possible. Water monitoring bores would be restored once monitoring is complete.

Water monitoring bores will be intermittently accessed throughout the environmental assessment and construction phases of the Project.

Other supporting work will include:



Minor road improvements

Minor road works on Bella Creek, Yielo and Borgan roads to allow safe access to the proposed upper reservoir site, as well as surface upgrades to existing gravel tracks. There will be increased light and heavy vehicle movements along public roads.



New access tracks

Constructing new gravel tracks.



Temporary construction camps

Temporary construction camps will be used to accommodate workers during exploratory works.



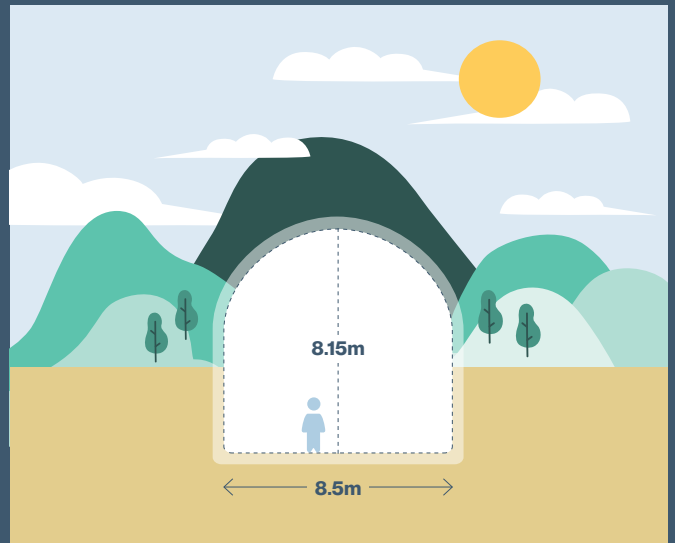
Supporting infrastructure

Constructing a temporary site office, workshop, vehicle wash down facilities and compound for material and equipment storage.



Spoil stockpile area

Establishing on-site spoil stockpile areas on Queensland Hydro land. There will be truck movements to and from these areas throughout the exploratory works phase.



Indicative dimensions of the exploratory tunnel

Timing and next steps

Queensland Hydro is carrying out the exploratory works from late-2023 to 2025. The exploratory works will provide data and information for the environmental impact statement for the project.

Opportunity to get involved

Community and stakeholder engagement is a key priority for the project. Queensland Hydro is committed to engaging early and often with the community and key stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes for both Queensland and local communities. Throughout the project, the community and stakeholders will have opportunities to learn more about the project and provide feedback on relevant studies.

Queensland Hydro is engaging through targeted stakeholder meetings and broader community drop-in sessions. Drop-in sessions for the exploratory works are scheduled for July 2023 and are listed at www.qldhydro.com.au/events.

We encourage landholders, community and other stakeholders to provide local insights and feedback on the project through our communication channels.

Get in touch

1800 433 939

borumba@qldhydro.com.au

qldhydro.com.au

ABN 81 661 444 515