

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

Project overview fact sheet

About the project

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project involves the development of a 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.

The existing dam infrastructure is well-situated in the electricity network to support the development of renewable energy production in the Southern Queensland Renewable Energy Zone.

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project will be capable of dispatching 2,000 MW and storing up to 24 hours of energy.

The development of a pumped hydro energy storage at Lake Borumba requires a new, higher dam to expand the existing lower reservoir (Lake Borumba) and a new dam to be constructed at a higher altitude to create an upper reservoir. An underground powerhouse would link the two reservoirs to enable water to be pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir, and for water released from the upper reservoir to drive turbines to generate electricity.

What is pumped hydro?

Pumped hydro is a proven technology. Long duration pumped hydro has the scale, operational flexibility, and low energy costs necessary to ensure the ongoing security and reliability of supply for Queensland's future clean energy system.

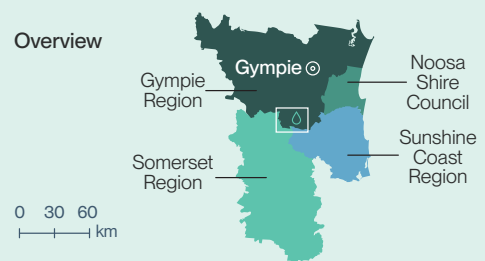
Pumped hydro allows for renewable energy to be stored and dispatched at times when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing.

Rather than shifting energy between places – pumped hydro allows us to shift energy between times. This will become increasingly important as the share of renewables in Queensland's energy system grows to continue to provide a stable and reliable energy system for Queensland.

Long duration pumped hydro assets are able to supply energy over a 24 hour period, or longer. Long duration pumped hydro stores energy while renewable generation is plentiful and discharges it when there is insufficient generation to meet demand. Long duration storage can also provide intra-day storage benefits, along with the ability to deal with extended solar and wind droughts.



Overview



Legend

- National park
- State forest
- Dams
- Upper intake / lower intake
- Tunnel and portal infrastructure
- Underground power water tunnel
- Powerhouse
- Current lower reservoir
- Lower reservoir
- Upper reservoir

Proposed site layout



0 550 1,100
1cm = 1,100m

Final Investment Decision outcome

On 13 June 2023, the Queensland Government announced \$6 billion for Queensland Hydro to progress the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project. This funding will support progressing with exploratory works and the environmental impact statement (EIS). The funding will also support detailed engineering and construction of the project.

Queensland Hydro strongly reaffirms that support from the community, including the Kabi Kabi people, is integral to the success of the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, and funding will allow deeper engagement with native title and cultural heritage parties on the project.

The announcement demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to develop the deep storage required to support a clean energy future for Queensland and support the objectives of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

Next steps

The announcement of the Queensland Government's final investment decision means that the Project will now formally move into the planning and approvals process for both the exploratory works and main works.

The Project requires environmental and planning approvals at State and Federal levels for both the exploratory and main works. The planning and approvals processes for the exploratory and main works will run in parallel, which will enable Queensland Hydro to be well positioned to commence on-ground works as early as possible.

An assessment process for the exploratory works under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) has commenced. The assessment process for the main works will commence in the second half of 2023. Environmental and planning approvals for the exploratory works and main works include opportunities for public comment.

Work will not commence until all required State and Federal environmental and planning approvals are in place.

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.

The project team also meet regularly with a stakeholder reference group, which was established to collect feedback and share information about the project. The stakeholder reference group is made up of stakeholder representatives from business, community and environmental groups.

For further information on our stakeholder reference group, or upcoming community information sessions and other community events, please visit our website.

To stay up to date with upcoming community information sessions, register your interest at borumba@qldhydro.com.au or visit our website.

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