

## Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

# Understanding our supporting works

## About the project

Queensland Hydro is progressing the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, which is a cornerstone of Queensland's transition to clean, renewable energy and reliable energy storage.

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project is a 2,000 MW pumped hydro energy storage system at Lake Borumba, located near Imbil, west of the Sunshine Coast.

Read more about the Project on our website: [qldhydro.com.au/projects/borumba](http://qldhydro.com.au/projects/borumba)



## About the site

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project site is spread across 1,500 hectares. Located primarily on land owned by Queensland Hydro or the State Government, the area is remote bushland with limited road access.

As we move through the environmental and planning approvals process for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, exploratory works are required to help us better understand the site and develop detailed designs of the Project.

Exploratory works are critical to understanding the geotechnical conditions and site characteristics, building on knowledge we've gathered throughout the investigations stage.

However, to ensure the Project site is safe and ready for us to commence exploratory works, we'll need to undertake a range of supporting works first.

## Preparing the site

Queensland Hydro has a carefully planned schedule of supporting works to be carried out over 2024. The first works are starting now, so you might start to notice an increase in activity in Imbil, Kilcoy and surrounds.

In the first half of the year, the supporting works will include:

- constructing new access tracks on Queensland Hydro land,
- road safety improvements and minor upgrades along Bella Creek and Yielo Roads, and
- establishing temporary site offices.

These works will ensure safe access to our site and mean Queensland Hydro can commence construction of two temporary workers' accommodation camps (TWACs). Both TWACs will be located on state-owned land that has been previously cleared and levelled, which is used, or has been used, for cattle grazing.

Later in the year, the supporting works will focus on site infrastructure, including temporary steel bridges, a storage area for material and equipment, a materials stockpile area for tunnelling by-products and temporary water infrastructure to enable surface and underground drilling.

Supporting works are designed to be temporary, but some will be permanent if we believe there will positive long-term outcomes for the community. For example, the road upgrades will be permanent.

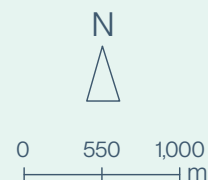


More information about these works, including estimated timeframes, can be found on the following pages.



### Legend

- Dam wall (existing)
- Lake Borumba
- State controlled roads
- Road
- Local Government Area
- Site-based road works
- Supporting works transport route
- National park
- State forest
- Proposed lower reservoir
- Proposed upper reservoir
- See opposite page for icon descriptions.



## Supporting works

There will be two types of supporting works: works to access the site, and works onsite.

### Works to access the site

#### Local road improvements

Minor local road safety improvements work will occur on parts of Bella Creek, Yello and Borgan Roads to provide safe access to the Project site and support increased light and heavy vehicle movements.

Bella Creek Road upgrades will include curve widening, grading, floodway crossings and general maintenance.

The community may see an increase in light and heavy vehicle movements during road works. Queensland Hydro will take steps to limit noise and disturbance to residents. For the safety of all road users and workers, temporary traffic control will be in place during all road works.

#### Temporary steel bridges

Temporary steel bridges will be installed over creek crossings on land owned by Queensland Hydro. The design for these bridges is currently being finalised.

At this stage, it is anticipated that the bridges will arrive to site in containers and be assembled without the use of a large crane.

### Works onsite

#### Site-based road works

New gravel access tracks will be built to allow workers to reach borehole locations across the site, as well surface upgrades to existing gravel tracks located on Queensland Hydro land.

We'll also be conducting safety upgrades to the existing Walkers Top access track. These works include shaping and widening the road, adding sheeting to make it weather-proof and installing safety measures.

These upgrades will remain a permanent fixture, ensuring any future users benefit from safer roads.

#### Supporting infrastructure

Queensland Hydro will construct a temporary site office on Queensland Hydro and state-owned land. We'll also build wash-down facilities for Queensland Hydro employee and contractor vehicles to use, minimising any risk of contamination or environmental impact.

Other works include a storage area for materials and equipment and temporary water infrastructure.

All supporting infrastructure will be temporary and removed from site, with the land remediated, if the Project does not proceed.

#### Material stockpile area

A stockpile area, for tunnelling by-products such as rock and soil, will be established on Queensland Hydro land.

Trucks will still be required to remove some excavated materials from site. Keeping stockpiled materials onsite will reduce the number of vehicle movements on public roads.

#### Temporary workers accommodation camps (TWACs)

Two temporary camps will be used to accommodate workers during exploratory works. Each camp will be constructed initially for 84 persons but will be master planned to enable expansion to 168 people. At any given time, approximately 50-60 workers will be housed onsite at each TWAC.

The TWACs will be managed by a camp operator and workers will be bused into site several times per week using a designated transport route. The schedule for this has not yet been finalised.

TWACs allow Queensland Hydro and its contractors to limit the number of people using local roads each day. This approach has multiple benefits, including:

- Less impact on community members
- Reduced impact on local accommodation and housing
- Fewer private vehicles driving to and from site
- Fatigue management for workers
- Less wear and tear on roads

If the Project does not proceed, the TWACs will be decommissioned and the sites rehabilitated.

### Supporting works timeline



## Approvals

Queensland Hydro is working proactively to obtain the appropriate approvals for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, with a key focus on environmental care.

Queensland Hydro is following a robust process to secure all required approvals for the exploratory works phase of the Project. It is important to note that no work will proceed on site without all relevant environmental and planning approvals.

Some supporting works, such as setting up temporary site offices and facilities, will be constructed on previously cleared land, and do not require environmental or planning approval due to their location and design. Some geotechnical investigations on previously cleared land also do not require approval for the same reasons. The road upgrades are being undertaken in partnership with local councils, with appropriate approvals in place.

Other elements of the exploratory works have been approved through alternative pathways. In August 2023, Queensland Hydro received a works regulation from the Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) directing us to build two temporary workers' accommodation camps (TWACs). This direction was exercised under the Coordinator-General's powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act), and allows Queensland Hydro to begin construction on the camps without needing to seek development approval from Gympie and Somerset Regional Councils.

For more information about the works regulation or other approvals, please visit our website.

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## What to expect

Queensland Hydro is committed to proactively minimising any impacts to residents during our supporting and exploratory works.

As the supporting works commence you might notice an increase in activity in Imbil, Kilcoy and surrounds.

Potential impacts to the community and nearby residents may include increased truck and vehicle movements along public roads and noise from supporting activities and road works. Queensland Hydro will take steps to limit noise and disturbance to residents.

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## We want to hear from you

1800 433 939

borumba@qldhydro.com.au

qldhydro.com.au

ABN 81 661 444 515



## Calling local suppliers

Queensland Hydro is playing a major role in supporting our regions as we transform Queensland's energy system. That said, we cannot deliver our projects alone. Collaboration is the bedrock of our strategic approach.

We're expecting up to 190 workers during the peak of the exploratory works. As part of that, we're looking to maximise opportunities for local and Indigenous businesses. This includes being prepared for and accessing opportunities on supporting and exploratory works.

If this sounds like you, check out our Suppliers page for more information: [qldhydro.com.au/suppliers](https://qldhydro.com.au/suppliers).

## Keep informed about the Project



Sign up to our mailing list to receive updates direct to your inbox.

Scan the QR code for a link to the sign-up form or email our Borumba team via [borumba@qldhydro.com.au](mailto:borumba@qldhydro.com.au)

## How can I find out more?

If you have any questions about the supporting works, exploratory works, or the Borumba Project in general, please get in touch. Our stakeholder team are happy to chat.

## Our Imbil office is now open

Head to our website for opening hours, or contact a member of our team for more information.