

# Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

## About the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

The Borumba Pumped Hydro Project is the proposed 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.

If constructed, the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project will be capable of producing 2,000 MW per hour for up to 24 hours. Find out more about pumped hydro by visiting the Queensland Hydro website at [qldhydro.com.au](http://qldhydro.com.au).

## About Queensland Hydro

Queensland Hydro is a publicly owned entity established by the Queensland Government to design, deliver, operate and maintain long duration pumped hydro energy storage assets that will be the cornerstone for the transformation of the Queensland's energy system.

### What's in this issue

Welcome to the third edition of the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project newsletter. This newsletter provides an update on:

- the Final Investment Decision for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project
- what's next for planning and approvals
- our ongoing stakeholder engagement activities.

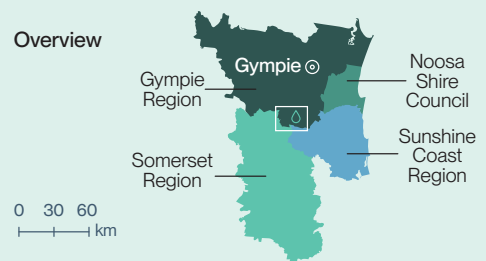


Lake Borumba



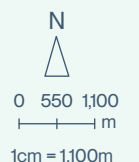
Proposed main works for Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, subject to approvals

### 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





Lake Borumba

## Government announces \$6 billion for Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

In 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 assessment. The funding will also support detailed engineering and construction of the project.

This funding will also support deeper engagement with native title and cultural heritage parties on the Project. Queensland Hydro strongly reaffirms that support from the Kabi Kabi peoples and the community is integral to the success of the project.

The announcement also 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*.

For more information on the final investment decision please visit the Queensland Hydro website.

## Environmental and planning and approvals

Announcement of the Queensland Government's final investment decision means 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 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.



### Environmental planning and approvals process fact sheet

Queensland Hydro have created an environmental planning and approvals process fact sheet to better explain how the process works, and how you can be involved. Visit the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project page on the Queensland Hydro website to download a copy.



## Exploratory works – tunnelling and associated works

The exploratory works involve exploratory drilling (i.e. excavating soil and rock) of a D-shaped shaft, about 8 metres in diameter, along one of the proposed access tunnels. Exploratory works will also include surface based geotechnical drilling across the project footprint, including near the existing Borumba Dam wall.

Other associated works supporting the exploratory drilling include road upgrades, construction of temporary construction camp/s and site office.

A referral for the exploratory works under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) has started. Queensland Hydro is responding to the Federal Government’s request for additional information. Once this information is provided, there will be a public consultation period before the Federal Government makes their decision.

Queensland Hydro is also working with the Queensland Government in relation to environmental and planning approvals under the *Planning Act 2016 and State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act).



The existing Borumba Dam

## Progress with main works EIS

The main works involve construction of infrastructure required for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project. This includes the new Borumba Dam wall, new dams to create the upper reservoir, underground powerhouse, underground power waterways, access tunnels, and switchyard. Other associated works include construction camps, road upgrades, quarries and batching plants, site offices and material and equipment storage.

Queensland Hydro is preparing to refer the main works to State and Federal governments to commence the environmental and planning process. The Project meets the criteria to be assessed under the EPBC Act bilateral agreement, which means both the Federal and State assessments are processed concurrently under one environmental impact statement (EIS). Queensland Hydro will continue to keep community and stakeholders informed of the progress with the EIS through future community information sessions, website, and mailing list updates.

## Transmission lines progress

Powerlink has been progressing their study for new transmission infrastructure required to connect the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project to the existing electricity transmission network. Due to the potential generation and storage capacity of the Borumba Pumped Hydro Project, new transmission infrastructure will be needed from the proposed pumped hydro facility at Lake Borumba to existing Powerlink substations at Halys and Woolooga.

If you would like more information on transmission lines progress, please visit Powerlink’s Borumba Pumped Hydro Project – Transmission Connections website at [www.powerlink.com.au/projects/borumba-pumped-hydro-project-transmission-connections](http://www.powerlink.com.au/projects/borumba-pumped-hydro-project-transmission-connections).

Queensland Hydro will continue to work closely with Powerlink as both the pumped hydro and transmission projects progress.

## Ongoing stakeholder engagement process

We will be hosting a range of community information sessions, to discuss the recent funding decision and what this means for the Project, with interested community members.

We encourage you to come along and speak to a Queensland Hydro representative.

If you are unable to attend these sessions, please visit our website to explore our range of information, including:

- Fact sheets
- Posters
- Newsletters
- Stakeholder reference group agenda, minutes and presentations

### Upcoming events

We are keen to continue connecting with the local community and providing opportunities to speak with the project team. The first round of information sessions will be on the following dates:

- Monday 17 July – The Pavilion, 77 Exhibition Rd, Southside, Gympie
- Tuesday 18 July – Imbil Memorial Hall, 127 Yabba Rd, Imbil
- Wednesday 19 July – Kilcoy Memorial Hall, 18 Kennedy Street, Kilcoy
- Thursday 20 July – Nanango Cultural Centre, Cnr Drayton and Henry Streets, Nanango
- Monday 24 July 2023 – St John's Parish Hall, 174 – 176 Currie Street, Nambour
- Tuesday 25 July 2023 – Cooroy Memorial Hall, 23 Maple Street, Cooroy

Each session will run from 3pm until 6pm.

You can find more information about these sessions on the Queensland Hydro website.

### Get in touch

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