

Meeting Minutes

Meeting name	Borumba pumped hydro project - stakeholder reference group extraordinary meeting
Location	Online [Microsoft Teams]
Date and time	Tuesday 31 October 2023, 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Attendees	<p>Environment group members: David Arthur (Wide Bay-Burnett Environment Council), Narelle McCarthy (Sunshine Coast Environmental Council), Ian Mackay (Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee).</p> <p>Business representative members: Janelle Parker (Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce).</p> <p>Community members: Carolyn Harris (adjoining landholder), Bruce Horsfall (Lake Borumba Fish Stocking Association), Ian Stehbens (local community member).</p> <p>Project representatives: Leah McKenzie, Travis Graham, Nirvana Searle, Michael Price, Rebecca Grady, Cindy Thomas, Lynda Williams.</p>
Apologies	<p>Business representative members: Sotera Trevaskis (Wide Bay-Burnett Regional Development Australia), Petra Van Beek (Gympie Chamber of Commerce).</p> <p>Community members: Senior Constable Bill Greer (Imbil Rural Watch), Don MacAulay (Mary Valley Fishing Club).</p>

Meeting purpose

Meeting purpose was to provide further detail regarding the OCG Coordinated Project declaration and Initial Advice Statement (IAS) contents, as well as engaging with the group regarding upcoming approvals milestones.

Minutes

Agenda item	Minutes and Actions
1. Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RG welcomed stakeholder reference group (SRG) members and thanked all for their time. - RG led introductions online and introduced Cindy Thomas as the recently appointed Stakeholder Engagement Lead on the Project, and Lynda Williams as the Senior Advisor for Stakeholder Engagement for the Project. RG advised she will be leaving the Project before the end of the year. - RG reminded members to the best way to contact the Project's Stakeholder Engagement Team is by calling the 1800 433 939 number or emailing borumba@qldhydro.com.au This will ensure any questions or feedback you provide is recorded in QH document management system and managed. - RG confirmed the OCG has declared the Project a Coordinated Project and has uploaded the IAS to their website. - Question from DA seeking an update on the transmission line corridor selection decisions. RG advised to contact Powerlink for any transmission line enquiries. - MP spoke to Acknowledgement of Country.
2. Coordinated Project declaration & EIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MP spoke to the slide regarding Main Works and Exploratory Works approvals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Main Works: Coordinated Project declaration received.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Works: Controlled Action referral is currently with the DCCEEW for determination. ○ Exploratory Works: Preliminary documentation has been submitted to the DCCEEW. ○ MP advised information relating to the Coordinated Project declaration including activity and key documents can be obtained from the OCG website. This website will be updated by the OCG with key documents (including the draft Terms of Reference) and activities as they become available. ○ MP advised the OCG's draft Terms of Reference for the EIS will not be released until the Project is declared a Controlled Action by the DCCEEW.
3. Project Elements – Main Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MP advised the Initial Advice Statement (IAS) provided in the Coordinated Project referral contains key information on the Project's elements. This is a scoping document with more details provided through the EIS process. - TG provided an overview of the Project elements map. - TG advised areas on the map typically coloured orange are temporary works. - TG spoke to Main Works slide #11. In addition to the slide, TG advised QH has commenced discussions with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding fish and turtle passage devices. NM asked who else is being consulted regarding the passage devices. MP advised QH has had preliminary discussions with the Department of Environment and Science (DES). Discussions will be had with DCCEEW, Seqwater, Sunwater and other dam operators. Learnings from other projects will be considered. - TG spoke to the Upper reservoir Main Works side #12. In addition to the slide, TG advised the Main new dam is approximately 100m tall. The main saddle dam is approximately 1.5km long, and approximately 50-60m in height. TG clarified there are no recreational activities proposed on the upper dam due to the significant 'tide' of the water (rise and fall). - TG spoke to the Underground infrastructure #13. In addition to the slide, TG advised the headrace tunnel contains water from the upper reservoirs that drops vertically approximately 330m to the power station. The water then flows out to the lower reservoir via the tailrace tunnel. When filling the upper reservoir, the turbines will operate in reverse and the water will be pumped back. - TG continued to speak to the Underground infrastructure on slide #14. In addition to the slide, TG advised some matters under consideration to the preferred tunnel alignment include environmental conditions, connectivity and ease of access to the locations, geotechnical conditions, tunnelling lengths. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DA asked to clarify the grey and dark green colour coding on the map. TG responded the dark green is the Conondale National Park. LM advised the light green is QH property. ○ IS sought clarification on the preferred location of the portals and raised concerns regarding the geology of the alternative site. TG advised the non-preferred alternative portal on the map (purple) is close to a threatened ecological community (MP clarified the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia). The location is also difficult to locate the switchyard due to the terrain, and the cut face would be significant in size (70-80m high) making it difficult to maintain into the future. TG advised more geotechnical testing is to be undertaken before a decision is made on the location of the portal. ○ NM requested the volumetric resumption of the Conondale National Park and reserve. MP advised the volumetric resumption is unknown at this time. The EIS will outline how much land will need to be resumed.
4. Project Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TG spoke to the Project footprint slide #15. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DA requested information on the Imbil and Yabba State Forrest's future; will they remain working forests or have protection. MP advised this will be for Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) to determine. QH will continue

	<p>discussions with those stakeholders regarding future tenure of impacted land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IS requested QH advocate to the State departments for the areas of the State forests to the west and areas to the northwest being moved to national park as a catchment health matter. MP noted and advised community can also raise these concerns/requests as part of the EIS process. ○ IS highlighted the land around the lakes needs to be considered as higher value management of land for ecology. MP noted and asked if SRG members have information regarding the fauna in the area to pass this information on to QH via its Stakeholder Engagement Team contacts. <p>- TG spoke to the 'other key point' slide #16</p>
5. Project Impacts	<p>- MP spoke to the Project impacts slide #17. MP advised members will have the opportunity to attend and provide feedback at information sessions with QH's technical specialists to discuss the impacts and mitigation measures to help inform the EIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DA requested information on the height (AHD) of the lower outlets from the lower tunnel into the main reservoir. MP advised there is a graphic in the IAS that will assist with understanding the minimum operating level. TG took this 'On Notice'. <p>- MP spoke to the Project impacts slide #18. These impacts are stated in the Executive Summary of the IAS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NM sought information on light impacts and if they were being considered. MP advised lighting will be addressed and a key consideration. ○ NM requested information on how the intersection of these processes and approvals will be required to meet legislation if the Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Bill 2023 is passed. MP noted the request and will provide comment at a future date.
6. Mitigation Measures	<p>- MP spoke to the 'Mitigation Measures' slide #19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TG noted a Teams chat comment from NM regarding Paradise Dam and confirmed that the roller-compacted concrete type and design for this project will be different to that from Paradise Dam.
7. Project Benefits	<p>- MP spoke to the Project benefits slide #20.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IS is wanting Queensland Hydro to highlight more information on local benefits. An example IS provided an example of a positive benefit to flooding with the increase of reservoir volume. ○ IS sought information regarding sediment and erosion. MP advised more information will be provided through the EIS process. ○ IS highlighted incorrect information being circulated by community on social media, with the tenancy of the of the former medial facility.
8. Next Steps	<p>- MP spoke to the 'Next Steps' slide #21</p>
9. Close	<p>- MP requested members advise the Stakeholder Engagement Team at borumba@qldhydro.com.au if there were any topics members would like addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IS requested information on how the roads and traffic will be managed moving forward in the project. CT advised QH will endeavour to have a presentation at the next SRG general meeting on roads and transport. ○ NM and IM discussed The Mary River Threatened Species (aquatic) Recovery Plan and suggested it could be used as a guide and a contemporary reference. IM noted it needs to be updated to include the snapping turtles. <p>- RG thanked all SRG members for their attendance and input and asked members to note the upcoming meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SRG extraordinary meeting (date TBA) post EPBC referral publishing

○ SRG General Meeting – Tuesday 28 November 2023, 9am

Meeting closed 2:45pm
