

Draft Community
Benefits Framework

Engagement outcomes



Between February and April 2024, the draft Community Benefits Framework was available for public consultation. This document provides a summary of the feedback received.

Queensland Hydro is investigating the delivery of two long-term pumped hydro energy assets in two locations across Queensland. The proposed projects are Borumba, located outside Imbil, west of the Sunshine Coast, and Pioneer- Burdekin, located in the Pioneer Valley, 75 km west of Mackay.

We recognise that infrastructure projects can cause disruption to local communities. Queensland Hydro is committed to working collaboratively with local communities to not only mitigate these disruptions, but also support initiatives that will contribute to enhancing the way of life for communities over the long term. Your invaluable contribution to the refinement of the Community Benefits Framework will ensure that this strategy is locally responsive and will leave an enduring positive legacy now and into the future.

What we did

Through a combination of online and face-to-face engagement, we were able to develop a comprehensive understanding of current community perspectives across both the pumped hydro projects and the Community Benefits Framework. Feedback was collected via a survey, as well as through a series of workshops hosted across both project regions.

- ✓ Online engagement
- ✓ In-person engagement



THE SURVEY WAS OPEN BETWEEN

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY AND FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2024



WORKSHOPS ACROSS BOTH PROJECT LOCATIONS

- 4 IN BORUMBA
- 2 IN PIONEER-BURDEKIN
- 1 ONLINE

Workshops were held across the following locations:

BORUMBA

Imbil – Monday 8 April

Kilcoy – Monday 15 April

Gympie – Friday 19 April

Imbil – Saturday 20 April

PIONEER-BURDEKIN

Mackay – Tuesday 16 April

Eungella – Wednesday 17 April

ONLINE

Monday 29 April

Who we spoke to

Queensland Hydro engaged with a variety of community members, as well as the broader public across the regions. Local residents, businesses, not-forprofit groups and other community entities were encouraged to participate by either completing the survey or attending a workshop. The survey provided the opportunity for locals and the broader community to share their feedback, whereas the workshops supported in-depth conversations across the communities in our project areas.

Survey



462

COMPLETED SURVEYS



51% WERE OVER THE AGE OF 61

Of those who chose to share their details:



When asked which project they are located near:



Workshops



53

PEOPLE ATTENDED WORKSHOPS

- 36 BORUMBA
- 12 PIONEER-BURDEKIN
- 5 ONLINE



25+

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES REPRESENTED ACROSS ALL WORKSHOPS

Key takeaways

General feedback

You told us how Queensland Hydro could expand communication and engagement with our communities.

You told us

Use a variety of communication avenues:

- Community Facebook pages
- Noticeboards
- Magazines/papers/local newsletters
- Advertising

Ensure disconnected community members are being reached by making information accessible.

Provide ongoing project updates and reporting on implementation.

Ensure information is provided in an accessible format (such as larger print text).

We understand that communication and ongoing engagement is important. **We will utilise diversified communication avenues, targeting our approach to each community's preferred methods.** We will keep you informed and involved at each stage of the implementation of the Community Benefits Program.

Vision and values

OUR VISION:

Delivering enduring legacies for our communities. Working closely with community, we will support initiatives that will have enduring benefits and potential for the most significant impact.

OUR VALUES:

Inclusive - Enduring - Responsive - Transparent

You told us

You agree that the values for community benefits are highly important, particularly transparency.

You want to see that the vision and values are being upheld through communication and actions.

Our values for community benefits are embedded in every aspect of community benefits. They will be a fundamental component of our decision making processes and interwoven into everything we do.

We will invite community to partner with us on the community benefits journey to help guide decision making and hold us accountable to our commitments.

“Communication via channels to reach the whole community - e.g. traditional media, social media, etc.”

– GYMPIE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

“Effective, inclusive and ongoing community participation in a variety of and across different groups in community (e.g. schools, aged care, Natural Resource Management, Chamber of Commerce etc).”

– IMBIL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

“Enduring is key, as many other regional major infrastructure projects have resulted in a short-term ‘sugar hit’ and not delivered the longer-term impact that was desired.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT

Strategic priorities



You told us

What we are doing

Infrastructure and regional growth is a priority across communities.



Providing information on our regional development program alongside community benefits, to ensure clarity on these areas of priority. We will engage separately on regional benefits.

Clear descriptions are needed of what each strategic priority includes.



Refining the strategic priorities and establishing clear parameters around what could be supported. You can see these changes in the final Community Benefits Framework.

Consider the separation of economy and education.



Renaming the strategic priority for economy to recognise the importance of regional tourism. Education will be considered across all strategic priorities.

Consider the role and inclusion of tourism within the economy priority.



Survey

PARTICIPANTS PLACED GREATER IMPORTANCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY.



Workshop

PARTICIPANTS PLACED GREATER IMPORTANCE ON ECONOMIC, TOURISM, CULTURAL AND CONNECTION BASED INITIATIVES.

“We think the concept and framework are valid. The four strategic priorities are not mutually exclusive and projects might provide benefits across all five so applications for funding should not insist on the choice of just one of these priorities.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT

“Infrastructure [is important], where it is relevant to any of the strategic priorities and not expected to be provided by governments or councils.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT

Content and implementation of the Community Benefits Framework

You told us

What we are doing

The Framework does not provide enough information or guidance.



Additional documentation will accompany the Framework to outline the process and criteria for application and funding allocation.

Further detail needed on how to apply, assessment criteria and implementation process.



A dedicated webpage and accompanying application form is available and contains the details of the assessment criteria and implementation process.

Create a mixed representative panel for funding decision-making.



A Community Benefits Panel will be established, with interested community members able to apply through an open EOI process. An external, independent review will also be incorporated into the assessment process.

Develop a Community Plan/Plans.



We are committed to working collaboratively in partnership with our communities and major stakeholders to develop plans that capture community aspirations and vision. A vision that is shared by the communities of each town will assist Queensland Hydro in understanding needs and priorities.

Create a group to support community in the delivery of implementation.



Our local engagement teams will continue to support the needs of the community and will work alongside local providers to guide the successful implementation of community projects.

The Community Benefits Framework is a high-level document, serving to outline the program intention and provide overarching guidance toward the desired initiative outcomes.

The Framework is not intended to provide comprehensive information regarding process, rather to align Queensland Hydro and community aspirations.

“Not sure there is actual guidance with regard to how the benefits Framework will adapt overtime and ensure long term benefits. Evolving will be necessary as the project progresses.”

– SURVEY RESPONDENT

Vision and values



You told us



Consider the ability of the project to succeed and the capacity of the group to deliver.

Don't provide excessive funding to groups or projects that may receive funding through alternate avenues.

Consider the potential for duplication of services or facilities nearby, ensure there is evidence supporting the need.

Consider small scale projects in impacted towns, larger 'legacy' projects for the region.

  You agreed that greater funding should be made available to towns that are closer to the project locations, with funding decreasing as distance increases.

“Ensure the projects that are funded are chosen on a demonstrated community need/evidence.”

– IMBIL WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

Assessment criteria for allocation of funding will cover three key areas:

Deliverability

- Feasibility
- Effective execution

Strategic fit

- Alignment with objectives
- Local relevance

Community value

- Positive community outcomes
- Inclusivity



Next steps



Feedback gathered through the engagement process has been directly applied to finalisation of the Community Benefits Framework. Stay up to date via the Queensland Hydro website and to find out how to engage with us going forward!

2024

February

Launch of draft Community Benefits Framework for public consultation

March

Public consultation on draft Framework

April

Community workshops on draft Framework
–
Survey closed

May

Review and analysis of consultation feedback

June

Reporting on consultation
–
Update Framework with community insights and feedback

July

EOI assessment panel

August

Final Framework released

September

Community Grants Program - round 1 opens
–
Applications open for 6 weeks, support available

October

Round 1 closes
–
Assessment of grant applications

November

Evaluation by Community Benefits Panel

December

Grants awarded to successful applicants

Stay up to date via the Queensland Hydro website and find out how to engage with us going forward.

qldhydro.com.au/community

Get in touch

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This document was created on 1 August 2024 and is of a general nature and subject to change.