

Environmental management

Borumba Pumped Hydro Project

About the Project

The proposed Borumba Project is being assessed as part of Queensland's future energy and water security needs. Protecting environmental values is a key consideration throughout project planning, investigations and environmental approvals.

Before any future decision on the project can be made, Queensland Hydro is required to undertake detailed baseline studies, assess potential impacts and identify opportunities to avoid, reduce and mitigate those impacts wherever practicable.

The information gathered through these investigations helps inform project planning, environmental approvals and future Government decision-making.

Our approach

Queensland Hydro seeks to understand, avoid and minimise environmental impacts wherever practicable through project planning, design and delivery. We do this through baseline studies, environmental assessments, technical investigations, ongoing monitoring and community engagement.

Before any future decision on the Project can be made, Queensland Hydro is required to complete detailed baseline studies and assess potential environmental impacts and identify opportunities to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts. Information gathered through this work helps inform project design, environmental approvals and future decision-making.

Should the project proceed, strict approval conditions, monitoring programs and compliance obligations would apply throughout construction and operation.

Applying the mitigation hierarchy

Environmental assessments are designed to identify potential impacts and inform how they can be managed.

Queensland Hydro applies the mitigation hierarchy when assessing environmental impacts. This means we first seek to avoid impacts wherever practicable through project planning and design. Where impacts cannot be avoided, we seek to reduce and mitigate impacts through management measures, construction controls and ongoing monitoring.

The mitigation hierarchy follows four key steps:



Avoid

Identifying opportunities to avoid impacts through project siting, design and planning.



Minimise

Reducing the extent or duration of impacts wherever practicable.



Mitigate

Implementing measures to manage impacts and protect environmental values.



Offset

Where residual impacts remain after avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures have been applied, environmental offsets may be required under State and Commonwealth approval frameworks.

Environmental assessments

Queensland Hydro is undertaking a range of environmental studies to better understand environmental values across the project area. These investigations include:



Biodiversity, flora and fauna



Air quality and greenhouse gases



Waterways and aquatic ecology



Noise and vibration



Land use and visual amenity



Traffic and transport



Geology and geochemistry



Waste management and rehabilitation



Groundwater and surface water



The findings of these studies help identify opportunities to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts and inform project planning, environmental approvals and future management measures.



Environmental offsets

Environmental offsets are only considered after opportunities to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts have been exhausted.

Where significant residual impacts remain, Queensland Hydro may be required to provide environmental offsets in accordance with State and Commonwealth requirements. Offsets are intended to compensate for the significant residual impacts that cannot reasonably be avoided through project design or management measures.

Any offset requirements would be determined through environmental assessment and approvals processes and would remain subject to Government requirements and regulatory approval.

Working with stakeholders

Environmental assessment is informed by technical specialists, Government agencies, Traditional Owners, environmental stakeholder input and community feedback.

Community and stakeholder feedback continues to play an important role in project planning. Queensland Hydro provides opportunities for stakeholders to participate through community information sessions, project updates, community reference groups, targeted engagement activities and formal public consultation processes.

More information

Stay up to date with Queensland Hydro and the proposed Borumba Project.

1800 433 939
borumba@qldhydro.com.au
qldhydro.com.au

Stay connected   

This document was created on 2 Sep 2026 and is of a general nature and subject to change.

CE-FTS-0031