

LOWER FITZROY RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 1 SPRING 2009

The Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project is investigating new water storage infrastructure, specifically weirs, on the Fitzroy River. This first newsletter provides an introduction to the project, the environmental and technical investigations being conducted as part of preparing a Business Case, and how you can provide your input. Future newsletters will focus on the results of these investigations.

Background

The Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project is linked to meeting future demand for water in the region. The Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy identified that in the short to medium-term, the development of new water infrastructure on the Fitzroy River would help to meet water needs for urban populations, industry and agriculture in Rockhampton, Gladstone and the Capricorn Coast. The Strategy, released in December 2006, included the options of raising Eden Bann Weir and constructing a new weir near Rookwood Crossing on the Fitzroy River. This would provide a means to store water that is currently available but as yet unallocated.

Raising Eden Bann Weir, raising the Fitzroy Barrage and constructing a new weir near Rookwood Crossing are included in a State Government Program of Works for the Statewide Water Grid [Regional Water Infrastructure Projects], with funding provided for preliminary engineering and environmental investigations.

About the Project

The project proponents are Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) and SunWater. In cooperation with Rockhampton Regional Council, GAWB and SunWater have begun to investigate the water storage infrastructure options on the Fitzroy River, with technical assistance from consultants GHD Pty Ltd.

The project is investigating potential development on the Fitzroy River involving:

- Raising the existing Eden Bann Weir.
- Constructing a new weir near Rookwood Crossing, with a number of different levels (or heights) of the weir being considered.
- Options that comprise a combination of the two sites in terms of development levels and phasing of works.

Assessment of these options will consider whether they could be constructed in stages over time and in response to triggers in demand (drought and / or consumer).

Preliminary work indicates that raising the Fitzroy Barrage is unlikely to meet the project's requirements and therefore may not be considered further as a development option for the Business Case.

The decision on whether to proceed to construction with any new water infrastructure projects on the Fitzroy River will depend on the outcomes of the Business Case, approval by the State Government Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and agreement by GAWB and SunWater.

The project is focused on the weir infrastructure. It does not include any downstream infrastructure (i.e. pipelines, pump stations, water treatment plants) related to the transmission and / or distribution of water from the Fitzroy River to elsewhere.

Supporting Regional Growth

The Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project is part of the State Government's Statewide Water Policy.

The project will seek to support this through:

- Increasing levels of service in terms of water reliability and security for existing regional water users;
- Enabling further regional development;
- Securing water supply for urban and rural uses in Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast;
- Supplying water to industry in the region.

The project will also bring benefits if it proceeds to construction in terms of employment during the construction period and potential improvements to associated infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

For further information:

Phone: 1800 423 213 Email: fitzroyweirs@ghd.com.au

Write to: Reply Paid 668, Brisbane QLD 4001

Visit: www.fitzroyweirs.com.au



Gladstone Area
Water Board



Making Water Work



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FEEDBACK FORM

This feedback form is designed to help identify potential social impacts of the project and to gain an understanding of how people use the Fitzroy River area.

We welcome your feedback. Please complete this form and detach it from the newsletter. Fold and tape closed and then post to the address printed on the reverse side (no postage required).

Section 1 Background

1. What is your post code?

2. Please provide a description of your local area:

3. Do you currently use the Fitzroy River?

No (please go to question 5)

Yes, which area of the Fitzroy River do you mainly use?

upstream of Rookwood Crossing

between Rookwood Crossing and Eden Bann Weir

downstream of Eden Bann Weir

4. Why do you use this area of the Fitzroy River?

Work, please provide explanation

Recreation, please provide explanation

Other, please provide explanation

5. Do you have any other comments or queries about the proposed project?

6. Would you like to be on the Project database and receive emailed or mailed out newsletters and other project updates?

If so please provide the following information:

Name:

Preferred delivery method: email postal

Please provide address for preferred delivery method.

Privacy Statement – The information provided will only be used for the purposes for which it has been obtained. By completing this questionnaire and sending it to GHD, you are providing GHD with permission to use the information in their Environmental Impact Assessment process for the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Delivery Address:
GPO Box 668
BRISBANE QLD 4001

No stamp required
if posted in Australia



GHD Pty Ltd
Reply Paid 668
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment is an important part of the project investigations. The purpose of the environmental assessments is to explore potential environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts (both positive and negative) likely to be associated with the developments.

The EIA will be carried out under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*. This Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places of national environmental significance.

Technical studies that will be carried out as part of the EIA include:

- Nature conservation / ecology
- Social impacts
- Indigenous Cultural Heritage
- Water quality
- Traffic and access
- Aesthetics, noise and air
- Hazards and risks
- Climate change and greenhouse gas
- Economics (socio-economics)
- Cumulative and consequential effects

Under the EPBC Act, approval by the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water Resources is required. The project will also need to obtain various approvals under the Queensland *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, and more specifically, the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS).

Cultural Heritage Management Plans

To assist in protecting any Aboriginal cultural heritage that may exist in the proposed Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project area, GAWB and SunWater intend to work with the identified Aboriginal parties to develop Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) under the terms of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*. Notice is hereby given of this intention.

Development of the CHMPs may involve the carrying out of assessments of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the areas potentially affected by the project.

Public Input

An essential part of the environmental assessment process involves public consultation with nearby landowners and communities along the Fitzroy River. Consultation activities will be organised during the environmental assessment work in the coming 12 months.

Community information sessions will be conducted in October where community members can view more detailed information and maps or ask questions of the project team. Drop in at any time over the four hours to find out more about the project.

Three information sessions will be held:

Community Information Session 1 at
Rockhampton Regional Library – Fitzroy Room
230 Bolsover Street, South Rockhampton
between **3pm and 7pm on Wednesday 7 October 2009**.

Community Information Session 2 at
Gogango Hall
Wills St, Gogango
between **3pm and 7pm on Friday 9 October 2009**.

Community Information Session 3 at
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Conference Centre, 25 Yeppoon Road, Parkhurst
between **10am and 2pm on Saturday 10 October 2009**.

Further consultation activities will be conducted during the EIA, including a call for public submissions as part of the exhibition of the draft report. Join the project mailing list to receive project updates.



Contact the Project Team

Phone: 1800 423 213*

Email: fitzroyweirs@ghd.com.au

Write to: Reply Paid 668, Brisbane QLD 4001

Visit: www.fitzroyweirs.com.au

*Free call from fixed lines in Australia, charges apply for mobile phones.