

LOWER FITZROY RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Project alternatives have been considered based on their ability to respond to rapid and emerging demands overtime.

Fitzroy Barrage

Raising the gates of the existing Fitzroy Barrage was considered as part of the Project.

In terms of infrastructure options, raising the Fitzroy Barrage does not satisfy requirements to meet immediate and emerging demands while ensuring capture of available yield from the system. Larger storage options are required.

Nathan Dam

Construction of Nathan Dam on the Dawson River is being proposed by SunWater.

Given the location of Nathan Dam and distance to the Project, together with anticipated demand from Nathan Dam within the Dawson-Callide and Upper Dawson sub-regions, it is unlikely that supply from Nathan Dam will achieve Project objectives and provide an economically viable solution to long-term water supply requirements in the lower Fitzroy.

Connors River Dam

Connors River Dam, located on the Connors River, has received environmental approval with SunWater as the proponent. Supply from Connors River Dam to satisfy the projected demands is not considered viable due to the anticipated transfer losses from the dam to the lower Fitzroy system.

Fitzroy Gap dam

Construction of a dam at the Fitzroy Gap immediately upstream of and within the impoundment of the existing Eden Bann Weir has been previously considered.

Supply from a dam at The Gap would not achieve Project objectives in the short to medium term as construction of a dam does not allow for incremental development in response to increasing demand. A dam at The Gap would also impact the existing Eden Bann Weir.

Non-infrastructure alternatives

Non-infrastructure alternatives to the Project include:

- Demand management strategies (pricing, education, rostering, recycling and water use efficiency)
- Research and development programs to reduce consumption
- Water trading (take up of currently unutilised or underutilised existing allocations)



Photograph 1: Fitzroy River

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECTS

Existing infrastructure

The Project will operate in conjunction with the existing Fitzroy Barrage with releases from Rookwood Weir to Eden Bann Weir (existing and raised) to the Fitzroy Barrage for abstraction.

Proposed infrastructure

Awoonga Dam, while regarded as a secure water source, remains the Gladstone Area Water Board's (GAWB) sole water source. GAWB plans to augment its existing system by construction of a second water source.

GAWB has identified the development of the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline (GFP) Project as its preferred delivery mechanism for a second water source. The GFP Project is designed to transfer 30,000 ML of water per annum (and possibly more if required) from the Fitzroy system. Water supply is proposed to be from water secured through the raising of Eden Bann Weir and construction of the new Rookwood Weir.