

# LOWER FITZROY RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

## SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ECONOMICS

### Water security

The most significant benefit of the Project is an increase in water supply for the region. Raising Eden Bann Weir and constructing Rookwood Weir will increase the availability and potentially the reliability of supplemented water supplies.

The Project will provide water to industrial and agricultural customers in the region and will support growing urban communities; benefiting the local, regional, state and national economies.

### Workforce profile, local employment and business opportunities

A workforce of approximately 150 persons is anticipated and the majority of employees are likely to be sourced from the local and regional area. No onsite workers accommodation is proposed. Peak workforce levels of approximately 50 people are expected at each river crossing site.

The Project will benefit regional employment and will provide employment opportunities to local communities. It is likely that there will be a demand for local businesses to service the requirements of the construction and operations activities.

### Potential landholder impacts and mitigation measures

Impacts within the local area may include:

- Loss of land (construction areas, inundation within river bed and banks)
- Relocation of agricultural infrastructure (pumps, fencing)
- Severance of and/or loss of access to land
- Cattle bogging
- Changes to water entitlements
- Water storage easement and flood buffer

Relative to a demand trigger and confirmation of a defined infrastructure build, landholders impacted will be further consulted and agreements (access, acquisition, compensation, etc.) negotiated and agreed on a one-on-one basis.

To date land impacts have considered land value; improvements; management requirements; severance and productivity.

### River crossings

Significantly improved flood immunity for several river crossings will facilitate the movement of people, machinery, equipment and stock in periods of flooding and maintain access to services and facilities.

### Management plans and strategies

The following management plans and strategies will be implemented to mitigate social impacts and enhance community benefits:

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Near Neighbour Policy and Grievance Management Process
- Land Acquisition Strategy
- Land Access Protocol
- Weed Management Plan
- Recruitment and procurement plans
- Traffic Management Plan



Photograph 1: Riverslea Crossing

### CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) have been prepared together with endorsed Aboriginal parties and approved by the State Government in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*.

- Daumbal People
- Gangulu People
- Ghungalu People
- Kangoulu People
- Jetimarala People

No items of non-Indigenous cultural heritage are predicted to be impacted.