

Environmental impact statement approval

In December 2016, Queensland's Coordinator-General concluded that the environmental impact assessment requirements of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Qld) had been met and sufficient information provided to enable a thorough evaluation of the potential impacts. The Coordinator-General recommended that the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project proceed subject to conditions and in accordance with recommendations set out in the Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the environmental impact statement (December 2016).

In February 2017, The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, as Minister for the Environment and Energy, granted approval subject to conditions for the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC 2009/5173).

The environmental impact statement (EIS) is available at www.fitzroyweirs.com.au/environment.

Proposed Rookwood Weir business case

Building Queensland is leading the development of a detailed business case for the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project in partnership with Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) and SunWater. The detailed business case analysis is focussing on the proposed construction of Rookwood Weir.

The detailed business case is anticipated to be completed by Quarter 3 2017 and subsequently presented to GAWB, SunWater, Queensland Government and the Australian Government for consideration.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Building Queensland, GAWB and SunWater are seeking information from interested parties about their potential water requirements from the proposed Rookwood Weir to support future business opportunities in the Lower Fitzroy River region.

Further information regarding the opportunity, how to provide your information and terms and conditions can be obtained:

- Online at www.fitzroyweirs.com.au/businesscase
- By calling (+61) 0412 314 818
- By email to lowerfitzroy@bq.qld.gov.au
- By mail to The RFI Manager, Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project Business Case, Level 30, 12 Creek Street, Brisbane QLD 4000.

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 PM (BRISBANE, QLD) 12 MAY 2017

Turtle movement study

In compliance with Project approval conditions, GAWB and SunWater, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP), have prepared a programme of works to undertake a turtle movement study. GHD has prepared the study design and is working with specialists from the University of Queensland and local partner Ecosure.

The turtle movement study will focus on listed species; *Elseya albagula* (white-throated snapping turtle) and *Rheodytes leukops* (Fitzroy River turtle). The study will collect data to provide information on seasonal movement patterns and home ranges for the species and comprises the following key activities:

- Deployment of hydrophones, routine maintenance and data downloads
- Turtle surveys (tag and release)
- Turtle nest protection.

Hydrophones are cylindrical (40 cm in length) acoustic recording devices designed to capture underwater sounds. Hydrophones will be deployed at a number of locations along approximately 30 km of the Fitzroy River, upstream and downstream of the proposed Rookwood Weir site. Hydrophones will be secured to concrete anchors moored to trees on the riverbank. The hydrophones will detect and log acoustic pulses emitted from acoustic transmitters attached to adult turtles. In addition, turtles captured during the turtle survey will be fitted with monel foot tags and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags prior to release. Two adults will be fitted with GPS satellite tags and data recorded remotely. Attachment of tags and the collection of data will be in accordance with the approved study methodology and animal ethics permit.



An example of a typical hydrophone



Hydrophone and anchor ready for deployment



Typical nest protection using mesh

Survey teams will deploy the hydrophones in Quarter 2 2017 (weather dependent) and return every four to six months for maintenance and to download recorded data. During deployment of the hydrophones and to facilitate turtle capture and release, teams will be active within the river and along the riverbanks during the day, as well as at dusk and into the evening for spotlighting. Personnel will access the river by boat and on foot depending on the location.

As part of the turtle surveys, riverbank areas will be investigated for signs of turtle nesting activity. Where nests are identified the location will be recorded and nest protection mesh will be installed to protect the eggs from predation.

Contact us

Phone: 1800 423 213

Email: fitzroyweirs@ghd.com.au

Write to: Reply Paid 668, Brisbane QLD 4001

Visit: www.fitzroyweirs.com.au