

Environmental impact statement approvals

The environmental impact statement (EIS) approvals process is now complete. The Coordinator-General's evaluation report approved the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project on 8 December 2016 and is valid for a period of three years. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy granted EIS approval on 28 February 2017; this approval has effect until 2046. The EIS is approved subject to conditions and in accordance with recommendations set out in the Coordinator-General's evaluation report and the Commonwealth Minister's decision notice. The EIS and approvals granted can be found at www.fitzroyweirs.com.au.

Rookwood Weir business case

Building Queensland is leading the development of a detailed business case for the Project on behalf of the State Government. The detailed business case is scheduled for review in the third quarter of 2017. A decision on the detailed business case is expected to be made by the State Government in late 2017 and subsequently by the Commonwealth Government under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. Rookwood Weir is the prioritised option for development of a water storage project (reference project) on the Fitzroy River.

Preparatory works

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) and SunWater are jointly supporting activities to complete the detailed business case and Preparatory Works. Preparatory Works include phased geotechnical investigations and assessment of the foundations conditions at the proposed Rookwood Weir, Riverslea Crossing, Foleyvale Crossing and Hanrahan Crossing sites to inform the detailed design. Preparatory works are well advanced and continuing based on the Project moving towards construction. Subject to business case approval and a financial investment decision, the draft construction timetable has 'in river' construction scheduled for the dry seasons of 2019 and 2020 with completion and storing of water in the wet seasons of 2020 and 2021.

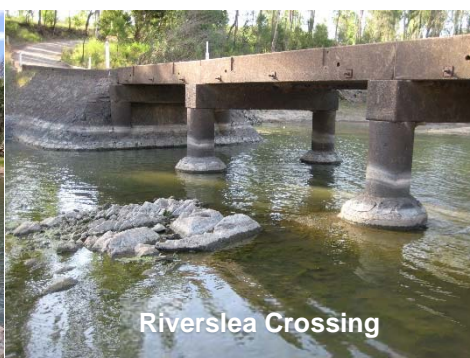
Early Works

Preparation for Early Works will commence from August 2017 to November 2017. These works will include:

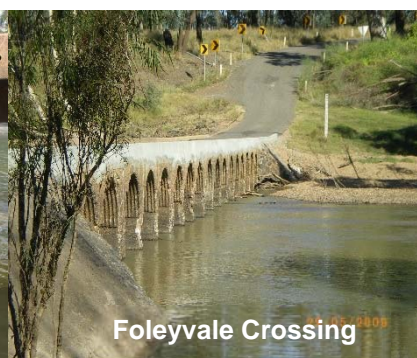
- The completion of concept road designs in cooperation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Rockhampton Regional Council, namely the Capricorn Highway intersection at Gogango and Thirsty Creek Road
- Survey of roads and key intersections
- Updating the traffic impact assessment
- Consultation with the local community in planning for access roads and key intersections to facilitate safe operation and inform the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan for the Project.



Rookwood Weir site



Riverslea Crossing



Foleyvale Crossing



Rookwood Weir site

Turtle movement study

A Turtle Movement Study commenced approximately six months ago to update information on the movement habits and breeding patterns of two threatened turtle species; *Rheodytes leukops* (Fitzroy Turtle) and *Elseya albagula* (white-throated snapping turtle). The study is a joint undertaking by specialists from GHD, the University of Queensland and Ecosure (a local Rockhampton environmental consultancy).

The study comprises the following key activities:

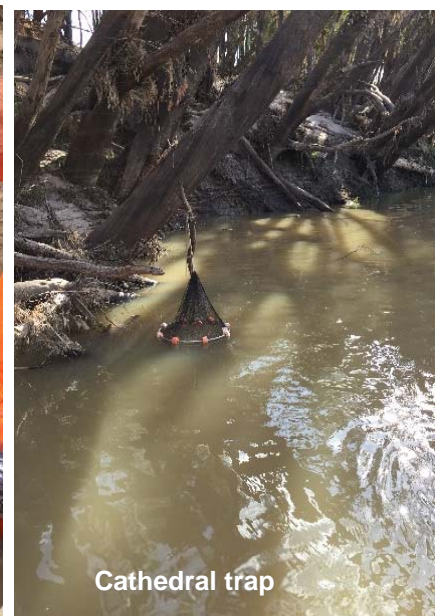
- Deployment of hydrophones, routine maintenance and data downloads
- Turtle surveys (tag and release)
- Turtle nest protection.



Fitzroy River turtle (juvenile)



White-throated snapping turtle with acoustic tag



Cathedral trap

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