



Community Liaison Group

MEETING MINUTES – MEETING TWO

Place of Meeting	Nebo Community Hall Supper Room Reynolds Street, Nebo	Date/Time	11.00am – 2.00pm Wednesday, 18 February 2009
Facilitator	Nicole Sommerville Sinclair Knight Merz		

Agenda Item	Action/discussion
Welcome and Introductions	Facilitator welcomed attendees Members introduced themselves and the organisation they represented
Project Update	<p>Sean Fleming provided an overview of key project changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in the storage level to 373,700 ML (169.1 FSL) ▪ Confirmed dam will be a roller compacted concrete (RCC) structure. ▪ SunWater are currently investigating road changes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to properties ▪ Upgrading of main access road from the Marlborough-Sarina Highway to the dam site ▪ possible concepts to maintain road access to properties in southern catchment of the dam that will have access severed by inundation. ▪ Relocation of a Telstra repeater station. ▪ Property acquisition process being undertaken by NRW under advice from SunWater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The viability of properties during the dam operation needs to be considered in relation to acquisition (i.e. area of property affected, impact on farming operations, etc). ▪ Two main pipeline routes have been investigated (a northern and southern route) from the proposed dam site to a location in the vicinity of Moranbah. The northern route is now the preferred route due to construction and operational constraints and ecological values associated with wetlands along the southern route. The northern route provides greater opportunity to co-locate with existing infrastructure corridors. <p>Questions and comments</p> <p>Why is the excess construction spoil located behind the dam? Are there any environmental impacts of this?</p>

- Main reason for this is aesthetics (keep the spoil behind the dam wall and inundated)
- The source of the majority of excess spoil will be from the base of Connors River and is expected to be clean sands and rock
- SunWater are looking at beneficial uses of materials in the inundation area (i.e. topsoil, timber).

Will the dam be clear of vegetation?

- Whilst still being assessed, the dam will likely be cleared to within 1.5 m vertical of the proposed FSL due to:
 - recreational use safety (i.e. potential for submerged logs)
 - water quality problems can occur if there is too much vegetation in the water
 - leaving 1.5 m of buffer vegetation at the FSL provides for good habitat for aquatic ecology.

Some of the area at the eastern end of the southern pipeline route is very low (i.e. about 20 km of land is flooding country) (note: this is one reason the northern pipeline route is now the preferred route).

What level is the 100 AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) for flooding above the dam's full supply?

- The nominated planning 1 in 100 AEP flood contour is approximately 173m AHD
- This is still at a planning level based on a "level pool" assessment (i.e. the effects of backwater have not been intensively modelled at this stage).
- The 1 in 100 AEP is being assessed for moderate flooding impact – dam failure works on a Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). This is a much larger flood that is expected to occur on an extremely infrequent basis.

The buffer is high above the FSL (169.1 AHD). Marylands will be interested in this because of the old homestead that occurs on that property close to the creek. Uncertainty for people remaining in the valley in relation to flooding (i.e. backwater effect).

Has the impact of climate change and earthquakes been considered?

- The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) require assessments of impact due to climate change, including potential increase in rainfall intensity, to be considered

- The draft ToR also require risk due to seismic events and bushfires to be addressed.

Who is being considered in the final business case?

- All potential water users are being considered. The demand assessment is progressing. Selling water to the coast is not being considered by the project (i.e. the project does not include a pipeline to the east) as there is no demand there at this stage.

How is water allocated?

- The allocation of water is driven by the Fitzroy Water Resource Plan, which is currently being re-drafted by NRW. SunWater is liaising with NRW regarding how CRD water may be allocated.
- SunWater is still considering how water will be distributed to customers. This will be assessed (in conjunction with NRW) as an outcome for the final business case deliverable in 2010.

What other dams could provide water to the northern Bowen Basin?

- Additional pipelines from the Burdekin River could possibly provide water to the Bowen Basin
- Demand management and other sources (i.e. coal seam gas) are also being considered.
- The *Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy* assesses numerous potential sources for the region – with an ultimate recommendation that the CRD is the preferred

Is extra capacity being built into the pipeline for other industries? Will it have the capacity to serve future demands?

- The pipeline is designed to be upgraded in stages (i.e. bigger pumps) and will possibly have a capacity for 56,000 ML/ year (the likely high priority yield from the dam)
- The EIS only includes the trunk pipeline. No spurs from the trunk pipeline have been incorporated into the Description of Project.

Does the environmental flow allocation take priority over the 56,000ML yield?

- Environmental flows don't have a water allocation, but does have a high priority
- The Queensland system is different to other states in that it considers a range of environmental flows, which better reflects the natural system (i.e. dry period just as important as wet period).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When establishing the available yield from the dam, the hydrological model is run first to ensure that the environmental flow objectives (EFO's) are met. In this way, the EFO's in effect have priority over yield.
<p>Draft Terms of Reference</p>	<p>Peter Sommer provided an overview of the evaluation and assessment process, including the Draft ToR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The draft ToR are based on the ToR for the Nathan Dam and Pipelines EIS. These include a new structure, definition of 'affected persons' (i.e. downstream water impacts/users), new chapters relating to social and economic and health and safety. Comments on the draft ToR are currently invited to the Coordinator General until 9 March 2009. <p>Questions and comments</p> <p>Will all stakeholders in the process be identified?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation is undertaken as part of the EIS, which the CLG is part of. The EIS will need to outline how stakeholders were identified and what consultation was undertaken. <p>Council is a major stakeholder and will be making a response to the draft ToR. Council haven't had input into the process at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SunWater will be talking to Council throughout the EIS process. <p>The involvement of the agricultural industry is important and AgForce was also identified as a key stakeholder by CLG members. It was noted that an AgForce representative attended this CLG and will be invited to future meetings.</p> <p>Important that all users have an opportunity to access the water. The cost of water is a key to this. How will SunWater determine the price of water?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being considered as part of the demand studies currently being prepared for the business case. <p>Who gets to make a submission on the draft ToR?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions on the draft ToR are invited from anyone interested in the Project.
<p>EIS Update</p>	<p>Bob Tilbury provided an update on the EIS investigations.</p>

EIS technical studies will investigate:

- Climate & natural disasters
- Topography & geomorphology
- Visual Amenity
- Geology & Soils
- Land Use & Infrastructure
- Contaminated Land
- Terrestrial Flora & Fauna
- Aquatic Flora & Fauna
- Surface Water
- Ground water
- Surface Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Noise & Vibration
- Waste
- Transport
- Cultural Heritage
- Social
- Economics
- Hazard & Risk

Questions and comments

If the pipeline route goes through areas of regional eco-systems, will this need to be off-set?

- Yes, it would need to be off-set, but generally the pipeline will be able to be moved around these areas to avoid impacts.

Post-development impact studies are often not done (i.e. no one goes back later to look at impacts such as the introduction of weeds, etc). Concerned about the introduction of weeds and how this will be managed.

- An EMP will be developed for the construction and operation of the Project and will include a monitoring program to ensure that the spread of weeds does not affect grazing country
- The Coordinator-General has a compliance role in relation to the on-going management of impacts.

What happens if noxious species are found in the inundation area? Would SunWater be required to eradicate them?

- As a landowner, the ultimate dam owner would need to comply with the land management requirements of DPI and other regulators.
- SunWater has been diligent with respect to weed management throughout on-site investigations to date and is fully aware of landholder concerns regarding weed transmission.

Would Indigenous owners get compensation like other land owners?

- Compensation is proposed to be negotiated primarily under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Native Title compensation is contingent on approval and a decision to proceed for the Project. <p>CLG Members raised the following concerns about the property acquisition process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ differences in the calculation of property compensation paid by Government versus private industry (i.e. mining companies) ▪ Compensation paid by Government is generally based on a set formula (i.e. valuation +10%) whereas private industry is not tied to this formula ▪ the property valuation doesn't consider the long term connection to the land ▪ some property owners may find it difficult to buy a comparable property ▪ many property owners within the Isaac Regional Council are required to move in the name of progress and not by choice.
Next Meeting	<p>Another meeting is proposed prior to the finalisation of the EIS.</p> <p>The facilitator will notify CLG Members of a date for the next meeting.</p>

