

Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project

Sunwater is planning for a two-metre raise of Burdekin Falls Dam alongside safety upgrades to increase the dam’s water supply and long-term viability.

Project update – October 2024

The proposed work on the dam will include raising the spillway and abutments using concrete buttressing, raising and widening the saddle dams, and constructing a new saddle dam on the right bank.

The project will bring the dam in line with modern safety standards, improve its resilience to extreme weather events and increase the storage capacity by 574,240 megalitres to support the region’s agriculture, aquaculture, mining, and energy industries.

As part of the planning and approval process to raise the dam, a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been submitted to the Queensland Coordinator-General (CG) for review.

The timing and further details of any project works, including costs, will be dependent upon the completion of the EIS and subsequent finalisation and submission of a detailed business case to the Queensland Government for investment decision.

Sunwater is now progressing vital investigation and preparatory work to understand project impacts, determine what materials and resources are needed, and to ensure areas around the project site are safe before major construction activities begin.

Road safety investigations

This large-scale construction project will require significant haulage of construction materials and equipment to and from Burdekin Falls Dam.

Sunwater is working with Townsville-based consultants, AECOM to investigate and assess what road safety improvements may be required to ensure Burdekin Falls Dam Road (state-controlled road) is safe for the community and can cater for the extra traffic generated during the project’s construction phase.

Over the coming months, you may see people carrying out surveys of the road corridor. If access is required on your land, we will contact you directly to seek approval.

If you have feedback about local roads that you would like to be considered in our current investigations, please contact the project team using the details below:

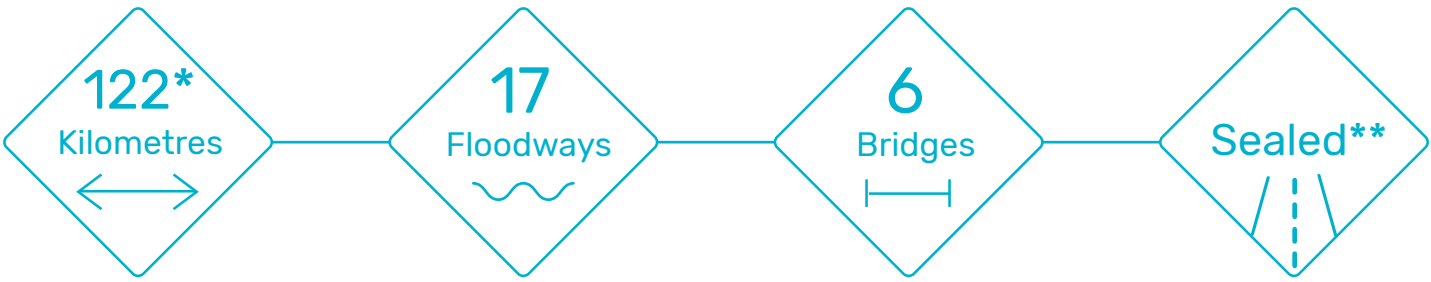


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About Burdekin Falls Dam Road



*122 km from the Flinders Highway to the Burdekin Falls Dam spillway

**Sealed road from Flinders Highway to just south of the dam

Current activities

Sunwater is finalising a tender process to appoint a lead designer for the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project.

Vital enabling work including geotechnical investigations, drilling and trenching to examine the dam's foundations and structure, and geological, ecological and cultural heritage surveys are underway.

This work will ensure Sunwater understands:

- site conditions and potential impacts ahead of construction
- labour, equipment and material requirements for the project.

Sunwater is committed to ensuring local suppliers and the community benefit from this project and will continue to work with local businesses, Traditional Owners and the community to provide information about future work opportunities as they are available.



Burdekin Falls Dam Wall (September 2024)



Burdekin Falls Dam Road (one of the sections to be investigated)

Environmental Impact Statement

Sunwater is required to prepare an EIS for the Burdekin Falls Dam raising. This ensures that all relevant environmental, social and economic impacts of the project have been identified and assessed.

The EIS also requires Sunwater to outline proposed management strategies to avoid or mitigate those impacts. The approvals for the project will ensure responsible construction practices are applied to minimise environmental risks and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Sunwater has submitted a revised draft EIS to the Office of Coordinator-General for adequacy review.

The Coordinator-General will release the draft EIS for public review and comment once they are satisfied Sunwater has met the EIS requirements (Terms of Reference). During this public notification period, Sunwater invites and encourages all stakeholders, interested organisations and the public to review and make submissions on the EIS.



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Raising and Improvement
Project**

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Contact Sunwater's project team:

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