

Date: Monday 29 April 2024
Time: 13:00 – 16:00
Location: Sturt Business Centre Townsville

Meeting objectives:

- Update the Community Reference Group (CRG) on recent project activities and work undertaken since the last meeting.
- Office of the Coordinator General to provide a brief overview of their role and an update on the environmental impact statement (EIS) process and next steps.
- Share a summary of the CRG feedback survey results.

Agenda:

Item No.	Agenda item
1	Meeting opening Introduction and agenda overview including Acknowledgement of Country. Facilitator mentioned two members who had resigned from the CRG in March 2024. Sunwater advised they will be reaching out invite new representatives from Burdekin Shire Council and Charters Towers Regional Council to join the CRG.
2	Minutes and actions arising Confirmation of minutes and outstanding actions arising. Sunwater sought final feedback from the CRG on a revision to the group's Terms of Reference (TOR). CRG members were comfortable with the revised TOR however want to maintain a separate register of issues and questions raised and responses provided. CRG felt having a separate register would be beneficial to capture all feedback/issues raised and keep track of how this feedback has been considered. Sunwater to update and finalise the TOR and reissue to the group. Facilitator to create a register of issues/questions raised and responses provided.
3	Summary of CRG feedback survey Facilitator shared a summary of the CRG feedback survey results and Sunwater presented proposed improvements in response. The purpose of the survey was to seek the group's views on the effectiveness of CRG meetings. Feedback from CRG members was positive overall with a small number of improvements suggested for the group's consideration.
4	Project update An update was provided by Sunwater on project activities since the last meeting. Items discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunwater is updating the draft EIS following feedback and comments received from government agencies on the preliminary draft.• Geotechnical investigations and cultural heritage surveys commenced in early April. Works include trenching, borehole drilling and topographic surveys. This will help confirm there is enough material of the appropriate quality and will help with the engineering design and cost estimates.• Concrete mix design trials are progressing which are important to verify the mix of materials required for strength and durability for the concrete structure.• Procurement planning for enabling work and the future alliance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ transaction management services contract finalised (supporting Sunwater to coordinate and manage major commercial transactions and establishing the Alliance)○ road investigation package being finalised

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ planning for release of design partner tender in quarter two 2024. ● Meetings ongoing with Traditional Owners and landholders.
5	<p>Presentation from the Office of the Coordinator General (CG)</p> <p>Representatives from the CG provided a brief overview of their role, an update on next steps in the EIS process and CG’s evaluation report. Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CG has declared the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project a ‘coordinated project’ under Part 4 of the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> (SDPWO Act). A ‘coordinated project’ signifies that a rigorous impact assessment involving whole-of-government coordination is required. The project has also been declared a ‘controlled action’ meaning it requires approval under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). This is being assessed under bilateral agreement between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government. ● Sunwater is updating the draft EIS following feedback from government agencies and will resubmit this to the CG. The CG will review the revised draft and decide on proceeding to public display and timing if Sunwater has sufficiently met the EIS Terms of Reference (EIS TOR). ● Representatives talked through the process and considerations for the CG’s evaluation report. At the end of the impact assessment process, the CG will release an evaluation report either approving with conditions or refusing the project. The CG’s evaluation report will be provided to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water who may rely on the outcomes of the CG’s assessment process, including any public submissions, in determining a decision under the EPBC Act.
6	<p>General discussion and meeting close</p> <p>CRG had a general discussion to share their recent feedback and ask questions to the Sunwater team. CRG members raised it would be useful for Sunwater to share the latest information on why two metres has been selected as the raise height. Sunwater will further consider this feedback in terms of how it can support the CRG with information and facts around the preferred raise height, for sharing with the wider community. Other follow-up actions from this meeting were confirmed. Sunwater will contact CRG members to schedule the next meeting.</p>

Burdekin Falls Dam and Lake Dalrymple are on the traditional lands of the Birriah, Jangga and Gudjala Peoples. We respect and value their continued sacred connection to Country, including the diverse, rich traditions, languages and customs. We pay our respects to their ancestors and acknowledge Traditional Owners today and in the future who carry their ancestors legacy. We thank them for their work with us on the project and recognise our role to listen and learn.