

Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project

Fact sheet: Environmental Impact Statement Process

Updated July 2021

Project Background

The Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project is a proposal to raise the existing dam to increase water supply in the Burdekin and surrounding regions. Sunwater is preparing a detailed business case (DBC) which includes an Environment Impact Statement (EIS) to investigate the long-term water supply requirements and options for potentially raising the dam wall.

Any raising of the dam wall would be a major construction project requiring a significant capital investment. It is critical to gather sound evidence to support any such investment and ensure there are no significant adverse impacts to the environment. The EIS commenced in 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2023. Following completion, the DBC will be updated to factor in any conditions in the approvals and final costings.

Environmental Impact Statement

Due to the nature and complexity of potential impacts, an EIS is being undertaken which assesses:

- the current environment around the project
- potential environmental, economic and social impacts and benefits of the project
- how impacts can be avoided, minimised, mitigated and/or offset.

Declaration of a 'coordinated project' and Final Terms of Reference

Queensland's Coordinator-General (CG) has declared the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project a 'coordinated project' under Part 4 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act)*.

In April 2021, The Coordinator-General issued the final terms of reference (ToR) to Sunwater who will now prepare a draft EIS addressing the ToR requirements. Further information is available on the [Coordinator-General's website](#).

Declaration of 'controlled action'

To conserve and protect Matters of National Environmental Significance, an action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on those matters must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment for assessment. Sunwater's referral notice and supporting documents under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act)* are available on the Australian Government's [website](#). The Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project has been declared a 'controlled action' meaning it will require approval under the EPBC Act. This will be assessed under bilateral agreement with the Queensland Government through the environmental impact statement process.

Community updates

Sunwater is committed to keeping key stakeholders and the community informed about the project and providing opportunities to submit feedback on the EIS in line with the Office of the CG. Once the EIS is finalised and if the Office of the CG are satisfied, the document will be made available for review and

comments will be invited from the public and advisory agencies. The Office of the CG will then consider these comments and submissions and may request additional information from Sunwater (a supplementary report). Once approved, the Office of the CGs report on the EIS will be released to the Australian Government.

The EIS will provide the basis for statutory approvals required for the project, if approved, to proceed to construction. The Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement Project is not expected to be impacted by the EIS.

The process



For more information:

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