

**Date:** Thursday 22 June 2023  
**Time:** 0:900 – 12:00  
**Location:** Sunwater’s Townsville Office, 235 Stanley St Townsville

**Meeting objectives:**

- Update the Community Reference Group (CRG) on recent project activities and work undertaken since the last meeting.
- Discuss the methodology and assessment process for the environmental impact statement (EIS) groundwater assessments.
- Seek CRG members feedback and answer questions.

**Agenda:**

Item No.	Agenda item
1	<p><b>Meeting opening and CRG member presentation</b></p> <p>Introduction and agenda overview including Acknowledgement of Country.                      A CRG member also provided an overview of their organisation, major projects and the feedback from their organisation/community on the project.</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes and actions arising</b></p> <p>Confirmation of minutes and outstanding actions arising. A CRG member offered to share some research papers published by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) that may be of interest to the CRG.</p>
3	<p><b>Project update</b></p> <p>An update was provided by Sunwater on project activities since the last meeting. Items discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunwater has received a further \$440 million funding commitment from the Queensland Government. This is on top of an existing \$100 million for the project, with \$19.5 million for planning and preparation for pre-construction activities in 2023-24.</li> <li>• Current focus is on data collection and investigation works. This includes surveys and field work for the EIS and importantly, confirming the quality and quantity of materials in the local area (clay, sand, and rock). Sunwater is continuing geotechnical investigations with further cultural heritage and ecology field surveys to support.</li> <li>• Temporary workers camp installed in early June 2023.</li> <li>• Finalising flood mapping and commencing landholder meetings.</li> <li>• Planning for enabling works to support future construction.</li> <li>• Planning for the detailed design contract procurement.</li> <li>• EIS-related fieldwork largely complete and technical assessments are progressing. Sunwater anticipates submitting the draft EIS to Queensland Coordinator-General (CG) before the end of year.</li> <li>• The CRG will be advised when the EIS is ready for public display and Sunwater will host a series of information sessions to explain how submissions can be made.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Recreation area update</b></p> <p>Sunwater members shared an update on the recreation area plans for Burdekin Falls Dam (BFD) in the near term and during the project. Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunwater is currently planning recreation area improvements at BFD as part of a broader Queensland Government funded program to progressively improve Sunwater-managed recreation facilities. The program is focused on upgrading areas to better meet community expectations, safety standards and accessibility requirements.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project’s impact on the recreation area is still being assessed but it’s likely there will be temporary closures of the recreational facilities during the project in the interest of public safety and the impact on visitor experience.</li> <li>Sunwater understands the importance of local recreation and tourism in the region. Sunwater’s priority is the safety of the community and its workforce. As construction methodology and works schedules are developed, Sunwater can share more about the scale and duration of recreation facility impacts.</li> <li>Sunwater is committed to working with the community to plan for any temporary changes and will communicate well in advance.</li> <li>Sunwater will engage with the community on the potential upgrades as well as investigate options for leaving legacy infrastructure for community use.</li> <li>Sunwater proposes to establish a Burdekin Falls Dam Recreation Area Community Working Group (CWG) comprising key stakeholders who represent a range of recreational activities and community interests. The CWG will be a forum for consultation and information exchange to ensure community and key stakeholder expectations are considered and the upgraded facilities will be fit-for-purpose. Sunwater will keep the CRG informed on timing in regard to establishing the CWG.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Update on the EIS groundwater assessments</b></p> <p>A consultant presented an update and high-level summary on the groundwater methodology and impact assessment. An assessment of groundwater will be presented in the EIS, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>detailed overview of the groundwater assessment methodology</li> <li>characterisation of the existing environment</li> <li>qualitative impact assessment, with separate assessments for the Project Area and the downstream environment</li> <li>assessment of impacts of changes during the construction and operation phases of the project on groundwater quality and local water tables</li> <li>identification of proposed mitigation measures.</li> </ul> <p>Further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A chapter of the EIS addresses the ‘groundwater’ section of the Terms of Reference.</li> <li>Chapter developed in accordance with the Department of Environment and Science’s Water— EIS information guidelines ESR/2020/5312 and application requirements for activities with impacts to water ESR/2015/1837.</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Wrap up and close</b></p> <p>Follow-up actions were confirmed. Sunwater will contact CRG members to schedule the next meeting.</p>

*Burdekin Falls Dam and Lake Dalrymple is on the traditional lands of the Birriah and Jangga peoples who have a continued sacred connection to Country and are the Traditional Custodians of the land, water and sky we rely on. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*