

## Fact Sheet: Bundaberg Scheme Distribution Capacity Upgrade

Updated February 2024

### Overview

As part of the Queensland Government's December 2021 announcement regarding Paradise Dam, Sunwater committed to work on a detailed business case to resolve distribution network constraints in the Bundaberg Water Supply Scheme (BWSS).

This detailed business case investigates the water **capacity constraints** within the BWSS's distribution network to support the region's diversification and expansion into high value perennial tree crops like macadamias and avocados.

Following the government's January 2024 announcement regarding a new Paradise Dam wall immediately downstream of the existing structure, Sunwater has been asked to progress a second detailed business case to **expand** the irrigation network within the BWSS.

As the capacity upgrade will build upon previous investigations to understand distribution constraints, **Sunwater will combine the two focuses into one detailed business case.**

### Proposed infrastructure solutions

#### Stage 1 – resolving distribution network constraints

Sunwater is working to understand bottlenecks within the channel, pipeline and pump station infrastructure that will constrain efficient delivery of water allocations used for irrigation to the Bundaberg region. Changes to agricultural crop mix and demand since the network was first established will also contribute to future constraints.

Existing infrastructure may require upgrades over time and new infrastructure may be required to deliver scheme allocations in line with increasing irrigation demand.

The project scope of stage 1 may include:

- increasing the capacity of upstream pump stations
- siphon upgrades
- channel capacity improvements
- replacement pipelines
- upgrading digital flow technology to monitor and improve system efficiencies.

This work could see approximately 30,000 megalitres of additional water made available for productive use within the scheme.

#### Stage 2 – irrigation network expansion

The option to expand the BWSS's irrigation network was investigated as part of the draft Bundaberg Burnett Regional Water Assessment, with strong support from stakeholders and local producers.

Expansion of the network could see the scheme's capacity increase by approximately 38,000 megalitres (in addition to the water from stage 1) servicing irrigation demand in key areas.

The project scope of stage 2 may include:

- new pump station / intakes
- siphon upgrades
- new pipelines.

The detailed business case will refine the required scope of work, cost estimates, and recommend staging timeframes for the capacity upgrades and expansion. To meet growing water demand, works are likely to be staged over time.

### **Detailed business case framework**

Development of the detailed business case will follow the Queensland Government Business Case Development Framework (BCDF). This provides a consistent and rigorous approach to proposal development, enabling decision-makers to compare investment opportunities.

### **Next steps**

Sunwater will commence the combined detailed business case in February 2024. As work progresses, Sunwater will continue to engage with scheme customers.

### **Contact Sunwater**

Please contact us on 07 3120 0270 or [paradise.dam@sunwater.com.au](mailto:paradise.dam@sunwater.com.au) with any questions.

Sunwater's customer support can also be contacted by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via [sunwater.com.au](https://sunwater.com.au), Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.

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