

Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme

Fact Sheet: Scheme overview

September 2022

Summary

- Rookwood Weir is currently under construction in the Fitzroy River near the town of Gogango with construction due for completion in 2023.
- Sunwater and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW) have now commenced consultation on proposed operational rules for the Rookwood Weir Water Supply Scheme (WSS).
- The Rookwood Weir WSS will service water users from just above the junction of the Dawson and Mackenzie rivers and the Fitzroy River to the Fitzroy Barrage.
- Public drop-in sessions are being held to provide stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the proposed Rookwood Weir operational rules.
- The proposed operational rules can only take effect once approved by DRDMW.

Background

Rookwood Weir is a landmark project that will capture valuable water in the Lower Fitzroy River for use across the region. Construction of Rookwood Weir is well underway with completion expected to occur in 2023, weather permitting. The weir will:

- provide water security
- boost the regional economy
- create jobs for Central Queenslanders
- grow and diversify industry and agriculture
- allow for the buying and selling of water.

Rookwood Weir

When completed and operational in 2023, weather permitting, Rookwood Weir will be an ungated concrete gravity weir situated across the Fitzroy River, downstream of the Mackenzie and Dawson river systems. The weir will store 74,325 megalitres (ML) of water with a full supply level height of 46.2m Australian Height Datum (AHD). The spillway length is 202 metres with the total structure approximately 350 metres, including the abutments. Structural works on the right riverbank will include a low flow outlet, fish lock and turtle ramp.

The Rookwood Weir WSS will service water users from just above the junction of the Dawson and Mackenzie rivers and down the Fitzroy River to the Fitzroy Barrage. The Rookwood WSS will overlap the existing Lower Fitzroy WSS which is owned and operated by Sunwater and the Fitzroy Barrage WSS which is owned and operated by Rockhampton Regional Council.

As the Rookwood Weir WSS will overlap two existing supply schemes, the proposed operating rules have been designed to align and support the current operations and to limit changes for existing water users. The proposed rules will maintain the existing supply reliability for current water allocations.

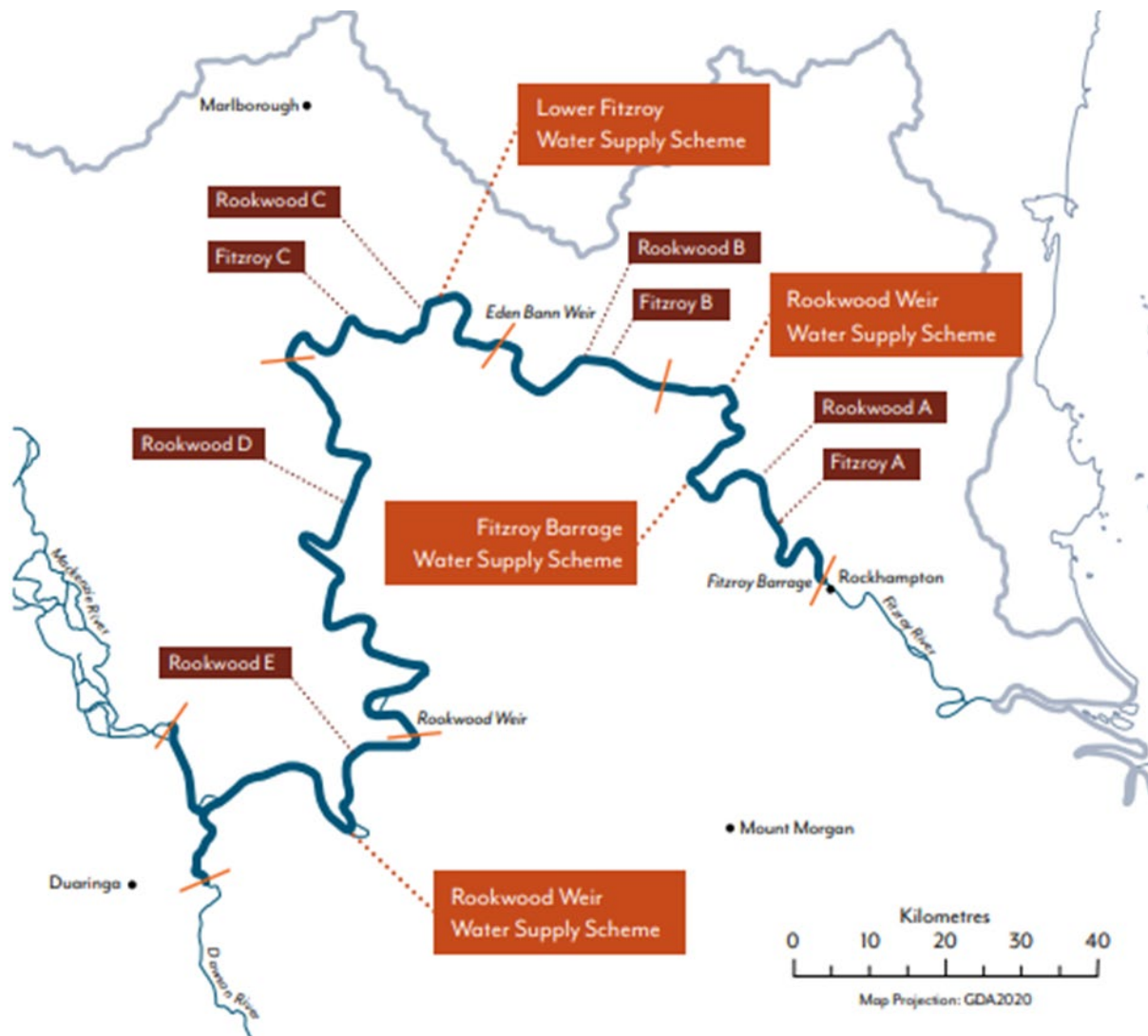


Figure 1: General map of Lower Fitzroy River system.

Fitzroy River water schemes

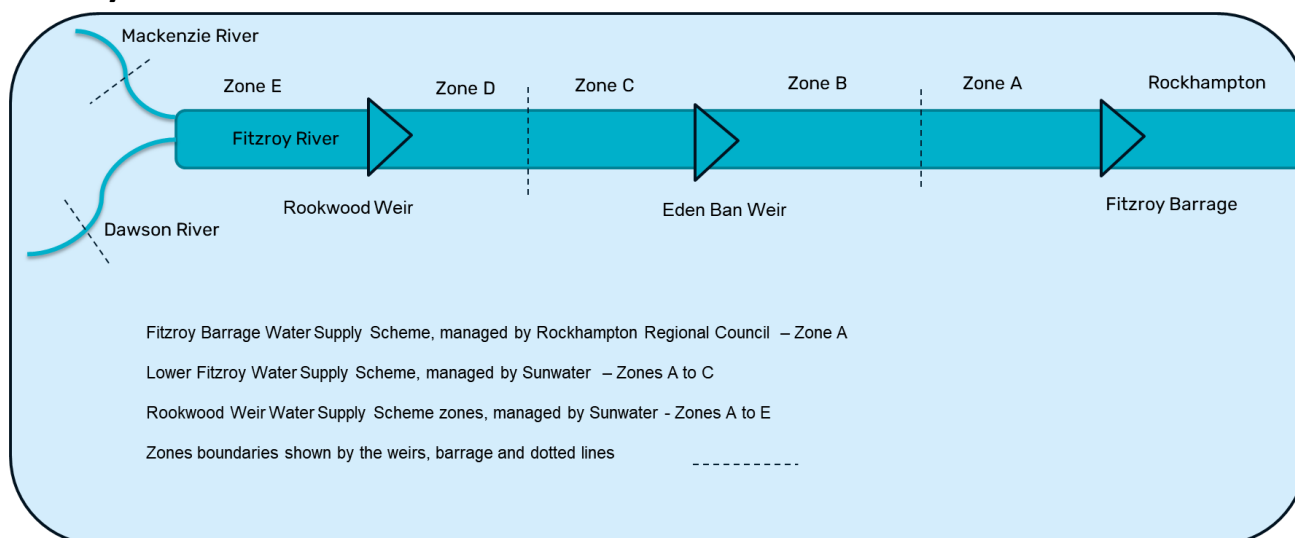


Figure 2: Lower Fitzroy River system.

The Rookwood Weir WSS will provide a mix of medium and high priority water allocations for agriculture, urban and industrial customers in Central Queensland. The Rookwood Weir WSS will yield 86,000 ML of medium priority (MP) equivalent water at Rookwood Weir with allocation volumes to be determined by location and priority group.

Committed water allocations include:

- Gladstone Area Water Board 16,667 and Livingstone Shire Council 6500 ML of high priority (HP) water allocation (34,750 MP-equivalent)
- a MP-equivalent agricultural allocation of 30,000 ML sold in the Tender One water sales process which concluded in 2020
- 7500 ML of medium priority water in the upcoming Tender Two water sales process
- Options for residual uncommitted volumes will be determined after Tender Two.

Rookwood Weir operational instruments

DRDMW finalised a targeted amendment to the Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) 2011 (the Fitzroy Basin Water Plan) in June 2021 to support the Rookwood Weir project. This amendment included new water allocation security objectives, new water trading zones and new water plan measure for the Rookwood Weir WSS. Information about the amendment can be found on [DRDMW's website \(bit.ly/DRDMWRookwoodWeir\)](https://bit.ly/DRDMWRookwoodWeir).

A number of operational instruments are required to be created or existing instruments amended for the successful and efficient operation of the Rookwood Weir WSS and the other two water supply schemes located downstream. Amendments to water sharing rules for unsupplemented water allocations (a water allocation not managed under a resource operations licence) are also necessary to offset the construction of Rookwood Weir.

Rookwood Weir will be owned by the State of Queensland (represented by DRDMW), however, Sunwater is delegated to act on behalf of the State managing the weir and servicing Rookwood Weir WSS customers.

Key Rookwood Weir WSS documents

- The Rookwood Weir WSS Resource Operations Licence (ROL) which provides authority to the owner to operate and distribute water in the Fitzroy River.
- The Rookwood Weir WSS Operations Manual which sets operating, water sharing and temporary trading (seasonal assignment) rules for Rookwood Weir WSS operations and customers.

- The Lower Fitzroy WSS Operations Manual which will accommodate the Rookwood Weir WSS.
- The Fitzroy Basin Water Management Protocol (WMP), led by DRDMW to:
 - provide a process for the release of unallocated water to establish new water allocations associated with Rookwood Weir;
 - create new rules for Rookwood Weir WSS water allocation dealings including permanent trade rules and priority group and location conversion rules
 - amend the announced period rules for unsupplemented water allocations located in the Fitzroy River.

The draft Rookwood Weir WSS ROL and Operations Manual and the Lower Fitzroy WSS Operations Manual can be found on the project's [Water Plan page](https://bit.ly/RookwoodWaterPlan) (bit.ly/RookwoodWaterPlan). All proposed operating rules in the above instruments have been designed and tested to achieve the Fitzroy Basin Water Plan outcomes, measures and objectives. For example, a principle for Rookwood Weir operations was that the existing Fitzroy Barrage is to be the first storage to fill and the last to empty (in dry periods). This will ensure protection of being able to take water for Rockhampton urban supplies. Additionally, commitment 25 in the Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the [environmental impact statement](#) requires the project to maintain "existing supply reliability for current water allocations".

Next steps

Consultation

Sunwater and DRDMW have now commenced consultation with interested individuals and organisations to discuss the proposed Rookwood Weir WSS operational rules.

As part of the consultation, drop-in information sessions to provide groups the opportunity to share their views, ask questions and raise concerns regarding the proposed Rookwood Weir WSS operating rules will be held at:

Location	Date	Time
Duaringa - Rural Fire Brigade - 5 Edward Street	20 September 2022	9:00am-12:00pm
Gogango - Gogango Town Hall, 12 Willis Street	20 September 2022	1:00pm-4:00pm
Alton Downs Hall - 1569 Ridgeland Road (Cnr Nicholson Road)	21 September 2022	9:00am-12:00pm
Rockhampton - Level 2, 220 Quay Street	21 September 2022	1:00pm-4:00pm

Once the consultation concludes on 10 October 2022, Sunwater will consider any issues raised before making a formal application to DRDMW. Approval for the ROL and Operations Manual is required before the construction of Rookwood Weir is completed in 2023.

Submitting feedback

Should you wish to discuss the proposed operating rules further, please contact the Rookwood Weir Project hotline on 1800 423 213 or submit feedback to rookwood.weir@sunwater.com.au.