

Date: Friday 20 September 2024
Time: 10:00 – 13:00
Location: Sunwater’s Townsville Office

Meeting objectives:

- Update the CRG on recent project activities and work undertaken since the last meeting
- Present the feedback and issues register to the CRG and discuss how it will be maintained
- Discuss the methodology and inputs for the environmental impact statement studies around geomorphology (changes in the configuration of the earth’s surface and movement of the material through the river system)
- Seek CRG members feedback and answer questions

Agenda:

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1	Meeting opening Facilitator opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country, provided an overview of the agenda and covered apologies for those who were unable to make the meeting. Facilitator mentioned one member who had resigned from the CRG, welcomed two new members and additional Sunwater attendees, along with a guest speaker. In lieu of a member presentation, CRG members shared recent questions, feedback or concerns raised by their community or the organisation they represent in relation to the project. Issues heard in the community included stakeholders are interested in seeing the hydrology assessment to understand if there are any impacts to aquifer replenishment in the Lower Burdekin after the raising and questions about the proposed dam raising height.
2	Minutes and actions arising Confirmation of minutes and outstanding actions arising. Key discussion items included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Terms Reference (TOR) were finalised and distributed to members.• A fact sheet providing an overview of the project and why the two metre raise height was distributed to CRG members. This is also available on the Sunwater website.• The facilitator and Sunwater discussed the format and maintenance of the new issues and feedback register. The facilitator and Sunwater will maintain the register and CRG members will have viewing access to the register.
3	Project update An update was provided by Sunwater on project activities since the last meeting. Items discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In mid-August Sunwater submitted a revised draft EIS to the Office of the Coordinator General (OCG) following feedback and comments received from government agencies on the preliminary draft. The adequacy review process will take several weeks and involves the OCG undertaking a detailed review of the draft EIS against the Terms of Reference. As part of this adequacy review, OCG has sent the revised draft EIS to various Queensland Government departments to assess how Sunwater has addressed their feedback from the first draft. This review includes the Australian Government, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The Coordinator-General must be satisfied the EIS sufficiently addresses the Terms of Reference before proceeding to public notification.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design partner tender is progressing. • Geotechnical investigations, ecological and cultural heritage surveys continue on-site • AECOM Townsville is continuing assessments of the Burdekin Falls Dam (BFD) Road to determine what safety upgrades may be required prior to the construction phase. • An airstrip upgrade feasibility assessment has commenced. • Meetings ongoing with Traditional Owners and landholders. • Sunwater also shared an update on the terrestrial ecology surveys as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). To inform the impact assessment, Sunwater has undertaken detailed ecological surveys and assessments in the project area including in the new raised full supply area and proposed construction areas. More than 215 days of ecological surveys have occurred onsite to date.
4	<p>Presentation from Alluvium on geomorphology assessments</p> <p>Guest speaker and Alluvium Consulting Director provided an overview of their work as part of the EIS including the methodology and inputs for the EIS chapter/studies on geomorphology and coastal processes. Key discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geomorphology examines the changes in earth’s surface over time. It’s used to help assess and predict potential impacts before they occur and/or understand impacts because geomorphic processes haven’t been well understood or assessed. • The impact assessment as part of the EIS considered both the construction phase and the operational phase. The potential geomorphic impacts can be assessed in two distinct areas, those upstream of BFD subject to an increase in dam full supply and flood height levels, and downstream of the dam, including coastal processes. The EIS chapter will include a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ detailed overview of the geomorphology assessment methodology ○ characterisation of the existing environment ○ qualitative impact assessment, with separate assessments for the Project Area and the downstream environment ○ assessment of impacts of geomorphology changes in the downstream Burdekin River and coastal environment during the construction and operational phases of the project ○ identification of proposed mitigation measures. • The methodology for assessing geomorphology and coastal processes comprises of the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a desktop assessment (supplemented by a brief targeted field investigation) detailing geomorphic character up to 10 km upstream and the Burdekin River to the coast ○ assessment of waterways where other project infrastructure may have a potential impact (i.e., Stones and Glenroy creeks) ○ sediment transport modelling to assess existing conditions and potential impacts both upstream and downstream of the dam.
5	<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. Sunwater shared that they are reviewing the staging and timing for the recreation area upgrades at the dam. Sunwater also shared their ideas about venues for information sessions</p>

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	when the EIS is released for public notification. The CRG provided feedback about the venues and other channels/sources to share key updates with the community. Other follow-up actions from this meeting were confirmed. Sunwater will contact CRG members to schedule the next meeting.

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.