



Statewide Water Policy
Quarterly Project Progress Report
February 2009

Project:	Rookwood Weir – Feasibility Project
Proponent:	The proposed Lower Fitzroy Water Joint Venture (originally Rockhampton Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board and SunWater)
Key Stakeholders:	Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Department of Natural Resources and Water, affected landholders, Native Title owners and claimants, future water users and the community.
Location:	Lower Fitzroy River (approximately 54km south west of Rockhampton) in the Rockhampton Regional Council area.
Project Parameters:	The proposed works involve construction of a 15 metre high weir to provide a storage with a capacity of about 84,300 megalitres (stage 1) or 117,300 megalitres (stage 2).

Project Scope

The proposed Lower Fitzroy Water Joint Venture has responsibility for progressing the Rookwood Weir and Eden Bann Weir Raising projects under the *Statewide Water Policy*. There is yet to be a decision on the order or composition in which these projects will proceed. In order to make this decision, preliminary business cases will be developed for each of the options. The works to be completed include geo-technical investigations, cultural heritage studies, environmental impact studies, land surveys and valuation, demand assessment and economic evaluation leading to development of a business case.

Project Status

Target Completion Date (feasibility)	2009 (Preliminary Business Case), 2010 (Final Business Case)
Possible Completion (construction)	2011/12

- The construction of Rookwood Weir was identified in the *Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy*, released in December 2006, as an option for meeting short to medium term urban and industrial needs in the Lower Mackenzie-Fitzroy sub-region.
- Preliminary geotechnical and environmental studies for the Rookwood Weir project have been provided to the Coordinator-General for use in future environmental assessments.
- On 10 July 2007 the Government announced that the Lower Fitzroy Water Joint Venture (LFWJV), comprised of the Rockhampton Regional Council, Gladstone Area Water Board and SunWater had been designated as the proponent to develop the Rookwood Weir proposal through to business case.
- The LFWJV is to develop the business case for in stream infrastructure development in the Lower Fitzroy River. Origin Capital Group (consultants to the formation of the LFWJV) notified the State on the 2 December 2008, of the Rockhampton Regional Councils intention to withdraw from the LFWJV due to the competing priorities of the new Council since it's formation in April 2008.
- SunWater and GAWB are now in discussions to resolve the future arrangements for the LFWJV.
- In December 2007, the Rookwood Weir project was included in a 'Program of Works' under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*. This will help to ensure the timely achievement of project milestones within budget allocations.



- Field environmental studies were completed in August 2008. Geotechnical investigations started in August 2008 and concluded in December 2008.
- SunWater has also completed preliminary flood hydrology, concept designs of the proposed weir, preliminary demand assessment, preliminary yield hydrology studies and cost estimates.
- Further development of the preliminary design and preparation of Environmental Impact Statement is being undertaken by GHD.
- Aerial Laser Surveying (ALS) of the site began in November 2008 and weather permitting will continued until April 2009.
- The urgency for expanded water storage capacity on the Lower Fitzroy River, through the raising of Eden Bann Weir and the construction of Rookwood Weir is tied largely to forecast industrial demand from the Gladstone region.

Budget	
Estimated Cost to Complete Business Case:	\$10.4 million (preliminary estimate)
Estimated Total Project Cost:	\$72 million (preliminary estimate)
Government Commitment:	\$22 million (<i>Statewide Water Policy</i>).
Budget 2008/09:	The LFWJV was allocated \$8.691 million in the 2008/09 State budget for both the Eden Bann Weir raising and Rookwood Weir projects. SunWater is administering this budget until the LFWJV is formed.

- | Communications and Community Consultation Activities | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive public consultation was undertaken in the development of the <i>Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy</i>.• As part of the preliminary geotechnical and environmental studies, DNRW consulted with landholders affected by the Rookwood Weir and Eden Bann Weir raising projects and hosted broad community briefings in February 2007.• The proponent will undertake communication and consultation activities as part of the investigations for the Rookwood Weir proposal.• SunWater is currently finalising a website and project newsletter to inform stakeholders on project progress. | |