

Rookwood Weir

Project Report

November 2018

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

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Purpose of this report

This report supports amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2010* to facilitate the Rookwood Weir Project (RWP). The amending regulation is provided for under ss.108 and 109 and s.173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



.....
Barry Broe
Coordinator-General

16 November 2018

1. Background

The Rookwood Weir Project (RWP) forms a key component of the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project (LFRIP), which seeks to provide the appropriate reliability of water supply to meet the needs of urban populations, industry and agriculture in central Queensland.

In 2006, the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy identified the project as a means of meeting short-to-medium-term urban and industrial demand for water in the Lower Mackenzie-Fitzroy sub-region.

The LFRIP was declared a Coordinated Project on 6 May 2011, with the Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report (December 2016) recommending that the project proceed subject to conditions.

In February 2017, the Honourable Josh Frydenberg MP, as Minister for the Environment and Energy, approved the LFRIP under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999 (Cth)*, subject to conditions.

The LFRIP was initially conceived as an assessment of the raising of Eden Bann Weir; and/or the construction of the new Rookwood Weir. The construction of the Rookwood Weir has been determined to be the most effective method of gaining the requisite water yield and is now the focus of the project.

The proponent for the \$352 million RWP is Sunwater Limited (Sunwater) and the project is due to commence construction in 2019 and be completed by 2021.

2. The project

2.1 The proponent

Sunwater is a bulk water infrastructure developer and manager, and a statutory Government Owned Corporation under the *Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 (Qld)*. SunWater has been appointed by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) as the project's construction facilitator and, subsequently, operator.

2.2 Project description

The \$352 million RWP seeks to provide the appropriate reliability of water supply to meet the needs of urban populations, industry and agriculture in central Queensland.

Key aspects of the project involve the construction of the weir and fishway infrastructure construction of new river crossings at Riverslea and Foleyvale, a new culvert crossing at Hanrahan, including associated road realignments and, the upgrade of the Capricorn Highway and Third Street intersection at Gogango and the upgrade of Thirsty Creek Road from Gogango to the construction site to enable safe and reliable access for construction related traffic.

Construction is proposed to commence in 2019, with targeted completion in 2021 and wet commissioning in 2022. These timeframes are subject to final review. Sunwater has undertaken and will continue to undertake consultation with affected landowners and interest holders.

2.2.1 Location

The RWP is located north-east of the town of Duaringa on the lower Fitzroy River, within the Fitzroy sub-catchment, central Queensland. It falls within the local government areas of Rockhampton and Livingstone Shire and borders the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire and sections of the Central Highlands Region (see map at **Appendix 1**).

2.2.2 Project components

The RWP involves:

- constructing a new weir at Rookwood which would be built to a FSL of 45.5 m AHD
- constructing gates to raise the weir to FSL 49 m AHD
- constructing fish and turtle passage infrastructure
- all mechanical and electrical control infrastructure (including the control room), to operate and control the weir both locally and remotely

- relocation and recalibration of the existing Riverslea gauging station
- the capture and storage of 76,000 ML of unallocated water resources available in the Fitzroy system as the strategic water infrastructure reserve
- upgrading state, local and private roads, bridges and crossings to maintain connectivity of the road network after inundation
- construction of bridges at Riverslea and Foleyvale crossings situated upstream of weir infrastructure and removal of existing low-level causeways and culverts and realignment of the associated approach roads
- the upgrade of Hanrahan crossing situated downstream of Rookwood Weir
- the upgrade of the Capricorn Highway and Third Street intersection at Gogango.

2.2.3 Land requirements

The project is located in a rural area, with beef cattle grazing being the primary land use, alongside some crop cultivation. The most common use of the Fitzroy River is for stock watering with livestock generally accessing the river directly or via pump/trough systems.

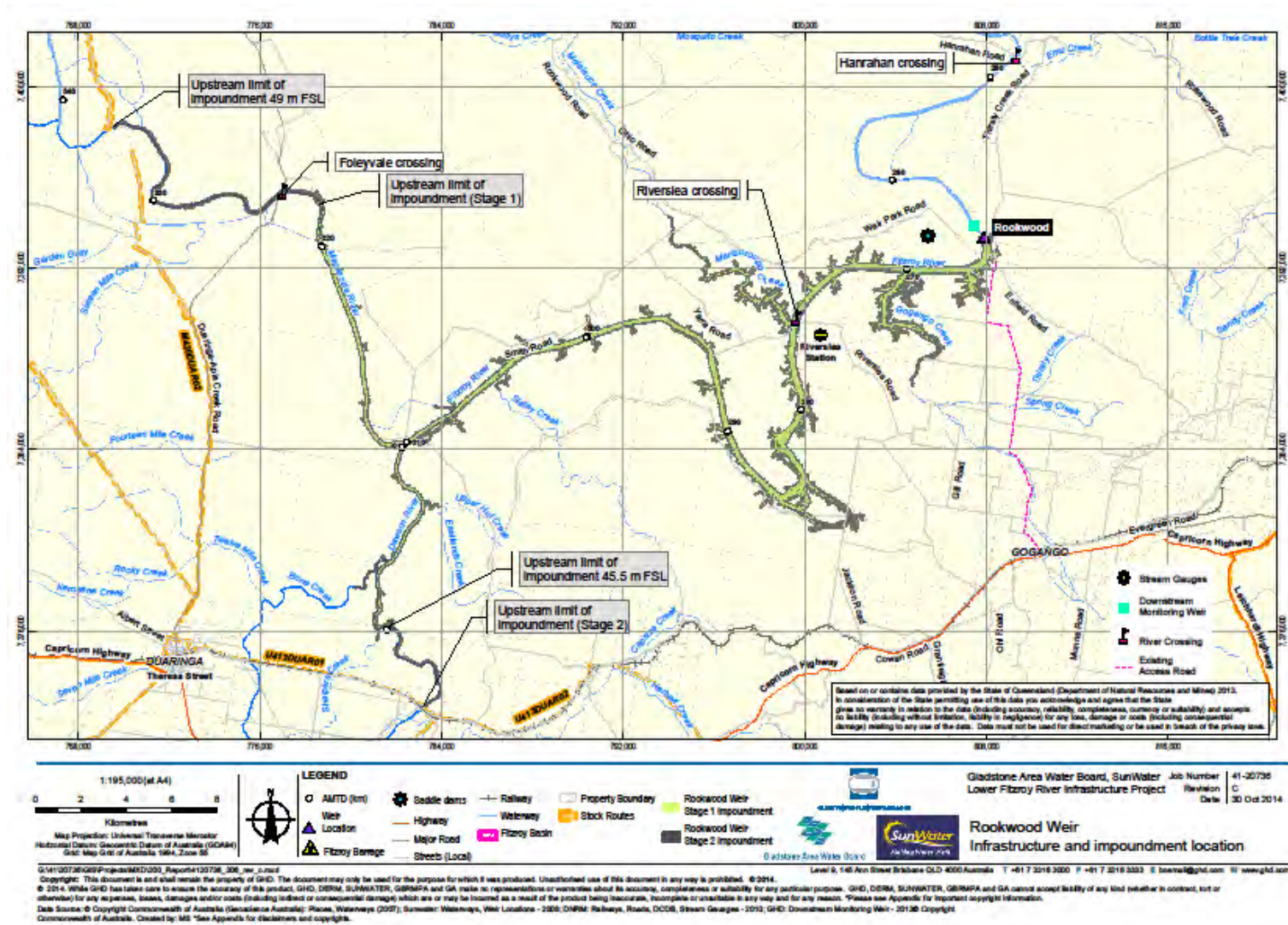
The RWP requires access to private and state land for investigations to determine the extent of land acquisition, inundation and access easements and the closing and opening of roads. The Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the environmental impact statement for the LFRIP identified that the Stage 1 inundation would impact 26 landholders across 38 allotments, and that raising the weir to Stage 2 would impact an additional seven landholders across 12 allotments. It should be noted that the scope of the RWP includes both Stages 1 and 2. Additional landowners will be impacted by weir construction, road and crossing construction and temporary construction sites. The full extent of impacted landowners will be known once specific land requirements are established during the detailed investigations and surveying of property boundaries.

2.2.4 Coordinator-General

The Coordinator-General has functions and powers to facilitate large-scale and complex projects, while ensuring their environmental and social impacts are properly managed.

While Sunwater's preference is to meet their land requirements through negotiation and agreement with landholders and interest holders, the Coordinator-General may provide assistance to Sunwater through the use of his functions and powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

Appendix 1. Map of Rookwood Weir



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