

Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline Project

June 2021

Copyright

The Queensland Government supports and encourages the dissemination and exchange of information. However, copyright protects material on this website. The material presented on this website is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution – No Derivative Works 4.0 Australia unless otherwise stated.



The details of Creative Commons licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website at <http://creativecommons.org.au/> .

The State of Queensland has no objection to this material being reproduced but asserts its right to be recognised as author of its original material and the right to have its material remain unaltered.

Please note that there may be different or additional copyright conditions associated with some of the available material. All content not licensed under a Creative Commons licence or belonging to a third party copyright owner is all rights reserved. Please contact Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning / the copyright owner if you wish to use this material.

Enquiries

Enquiries regarding the reproduction of Queensland Government material or material published on this website may be directed to info@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au or in writing to:

Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009
City East, Queensland 4002.

Linking permission

Requests concerning permission to link to this website should be directed to info@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au .

Table of Contents

Purpose of this report	1
1.0 Background	2
2.0 The Project	2
2.1 Responsible entity	2
2.2 Project description.....	2
2.2.1 Location	3
2.2.2 Land Requirements	4
2.3 Coordinator-General.....	4

Purpose of this report

This report supports amendments to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020 to facilitate the construction of the Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline. The amending regulation is provided for under ss. 99, 108, 109 and s.173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



.....
David Stolz

Assistant Coordinator-General

25 June 2021

1.0 Background

In late 2019, Southern Downs was facing a water supply emergency with Warwick's main water supply from Leslie Dam reaching about 6 per cent which, at that time, left only an estimated 14 months of supply.

On 26 November 2019, the State committed \$1 million to investigate contingency water supply options for Warwick and surrounding communities should Leslie Dam fail.

A feasibility study by Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater identified that the only viable solution in the timeframe is a new approximately 108 kilometre water pipeline to Warwick from Wivenhoe Dam via Toowoomba to meet Warwick's drought contingency water supply needs.

It is proposed to construct a raw water pipeline connecting the Toowoomba Regional Council reticulated water system to the Southern Downs Regional Council water treatment plant at Warwick. The planned alignment also may service the Toowoomba Regional Council's towns of Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby and Clifton.

On 15 April 2021, the Premier announced a \$20 million drought resilience package for the Southern Downs region to ensure water security for the region. The package includes \$8.1 million towards preparatory works for the pipeline, including detailed design, environmental approvals, surveying and geotechnical works.

Rainfall in March 2021 brought some welcome relief to the Southern Downs, and Leslie Dam only improved to 28.8 per cent capacity and is forecast to deplete by about the third quarter of 2023.

It takes about 18 months to construct a pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick. To reduce reliance upon Leslie Dam supplies the preparation for construction of the infrastructure should proceed to secure a reliable water supply for the region.

2.0 The Project

2.1 Responsible entity

Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority trading as Seqwater has been appointed by the Queensland Government to undertake the preparatory works to deliver the final design of the Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline project.

2.2 Project description

In order to secure a reliable water supply for the region, an approximately 108 kilometre pipeline is proposed, which will supply raw water to Warwick from Wivenhoe Dam via Toowoomba.

The Warwick water supply services a population of about 17,000 (2020). Leslie and Connolly dams are the current source of water supply for the township and surrounding communities of Yangan and Allora. Water carting to a population of this size is not viable.

The township of Warwick is a service centre for the surrounding agricultural industry within the South West Queensland region and has a number of large established businesses (such as John Dee Meatworks and the distribution centre for Big W for Queensland). Warwick has also hosted

Polocrosse World Cups, attracting international tourism to the state and attracts visitors from Australia wide to the annual rodeo. The Southern Downs Regional Council's Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$2.02 billion (2019-20), which was generated by more than 4000 local businesses, of which the largest sector is agriculture, forestry and fishing.

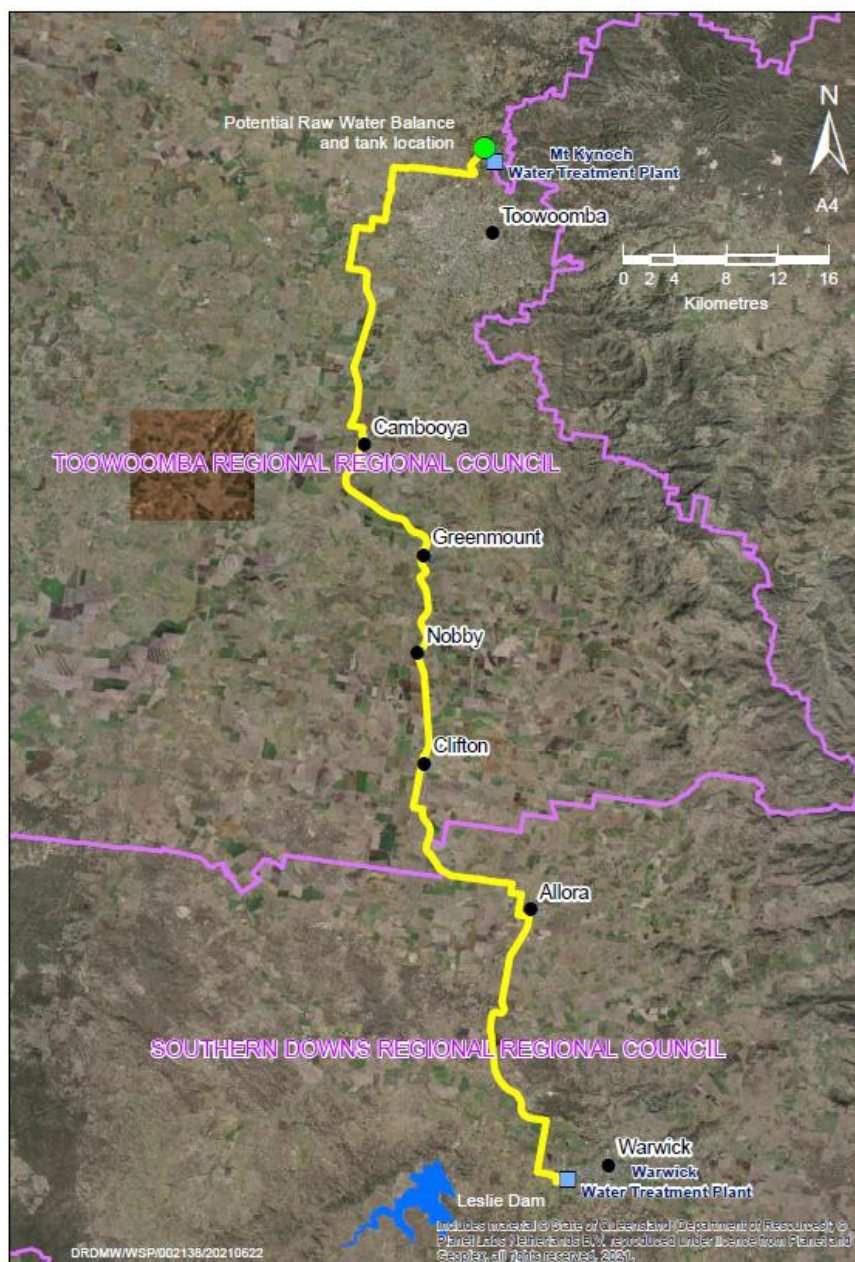
The proposed pipeline also supports plans by Toowoomba Regional Council to permanently supply towns in the south of its area of operation.

It is estimated that the current supply levels in the Leslie Dam will be depleted in about Quarter 3, 2023 and the anticipated timeframe for construction of project, once final design is approved, is 18 months.

2.2.1 Location

Warwick is the administrative centre of the Southern Downs Regional Council local government area.

The proposed pipeline route has been selected as the most appropriate as it ensures best use of existing and proposed infrastructure, is most cost effective, and limits impact to private landowners as the majority of the pipeline is proposed to be built within the existing road and rail infrastructure corridors between Toowoomba and Warwick. The map below identifies the location of the pipeline.



2.2.2 Land Requirements

The proposed corridor is primarily situated within existing road reserves and rail corridors and will have minimum impact on private landholders. Negotiations have commenced to secure tenure for the pipeline. In order to undertake final design works and facilitate the construction of the approved design, there may be a requirement for temporary access to and use of adjoining privately owned land for purposes such as investigative works, temporary laydown area, stockpiling and accessing the corridor for construction.

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

The Coordinator-General may also provide assistance with other aspects of the project in accordance with its powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

Department of State Development,
Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009 City East Qld 4002 Australia
Tel 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
info@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au
www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au

