

# Julia Creek/Richmond Critical Minerals Zone Water Delivery Options

## Project Report

October 2023

**The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning connects industries, businesses, communities and government (at all levels) to leverage regions' strengths to generate sustainable and enduring economic growth that supports well-planned, inclusive and resilient communities.**

### Acknowledgement of Country

The department acknowledges the First Nations peoples in Queensland: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their connections to the lands, winds and waters we now all share. We pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the continuous living culture of First Nations Queenslanders – their diverse languages, customs and traditions, knowledges and systems. We acknowledge the deep relationship, connection and responsibility to land, sea, sky and Country as an integral element of First Nations identity and culture.

The Country is sacred. Everything on the land has meaning and all people are one with it. We acknowledge First Nations peoples' sacred connection as central to culture and being. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to shaping our state's future together. The department recognises the contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to the State of Queensland and how this continues to enrich our society more broadly.

### Copyright

This publication is protected by the *Copyright Act 1968*.

### Licence



This work, except as identified below, is licensed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivative Works (CC BY-NC-ND) 4.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit: <http://creativecommons.org.au/>

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt this publication, as long as you attribute it as follows:

© Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, October 2023.

Third party material that is not licensed under a Creative Commons licence is referenced within this document. All content not licensed under a Creative Commons licence is all rights reserved. Please contact the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the copyright owner if you wish to use this material.

### Translating and interpreting service



The Queensland Government is committed to providing accessible services to Queenslanders of all cultural and linguistic backgrounds. If you have difficulty understanding this publication and need a translator, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 13 1450 and ask them to contact the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning on 07 3328 4811.

### Disclaimer

While every care has been taken in preparing this publication, to the extent permitted by law, the State of Queensland accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses (including direct and indirect loss), damages and costs incurred as a result of decisions or actions taken as a result of any data, information, statement or advice, expressed or implied, contained within. To the best of our knowledge, the content was correct at the time of publishing.

Any references to legislation are not an interpretation of the law. They are to be used as a guide only. The information in this publication is general and does not take into account individual circumstances or situations. Where appropriate, independent legal advice should be sought.

Copies of this publication are available on our website at [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg) and further copies are available upon request.

### Contact us

Phone: 1800 001 048

Email: [PrescribedProjects@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au](mailto:PrescribedProjects@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au)

Web: [www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg)

Post: PO Box 15517 City East Qld 4002

Address: 1 William Street Brisbane QLD 4000 (Australia)

# Contents

Purpose of this report .....	iv
1. Background.....	1
2. The Project .....	1
2.1 Responsible entity .....	1
2.2 Project description .....	1
2.3 Project location.....	1
2.4 Land Requirements .....	2
2.5 Coordinator-General.....	2

# Purpose of this report

This report supports amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020* to facilitate access to land for investigations, undertaking investigatory works for and development of a strategic assessment for the Julia Creek/Richmond Critical Minerals Zone Water Delivery Options to deliver common user water infrastructure for critical minerals projects at Julia Creek/Richmond. The amendment regulation is provided for under ss. 99, 100, 102 and 173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



Kerry Smeltzer

Assistant Coordinator-General

October 2023

# Background

The Julia Creek/Richmond area has been identified as a Critical Minerals Zone in the Queensland Critical Minerals Strategy. The Julia Creek/Richmond area has significant vanadium resources with the potential to develop a significant critical minerals industry for Queensland. There are currently seven known vanadium projects proposed in the Julia Creek/Richmond area at various stages of development.

Known barriers to the establishment of a critical minerals industry in the Julia Creek/Richmond area include the costs and length of time spent undertaking environmental and other survey work to support approval applications, funding project-specific infrastructure, approval and tenure processes and gaining access to secure a reliable water supply which is a highly regulated and scarce resource.

The Coordinator-General can facilitate common-user water infrastructure as a potential solution to deliver a reliable water supply to proponents while addressing high costs and environmental impacts of setting up project-specific infrastructure.

## 2. The Project

### 2.1 Responsible entity

SunWater Limited is a bulk water infrastructure developer and manager, and a statutory Government Owned Corporation under the *Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 (Qld)*.

### 2.2 Project description

A strategic assessment for Julia Creek/Richmond Critical Minerals Zone Water Delivery Options is required in accordance with stage 1 of the Queensland Government Business Case Development Framework (BCDF), to analyse options available to supply reliable water to critical minerals projects in the Julia Creek/Richmond area on an interim and permanent basis.

The Strategic Assessment will develop and assess a long list of options and include socio-economic, environmental, financial and sustainability desktop studies for each option. The Strategic Assessment will be delivered by 30 June 2024.

SunWater will submit reports on the progress of the project works to the Coordinator-General on a monthly basis and in a form agreed with the Coordinator-General.

### 2.3 Project location

Julia Creek is approximately 650 kilometres west of Townsville and 250 kilometres east of Mount Isa. Julia Creek falls within the McKinlay Shire Council local government area.

Richmond is approximately 500 kilometres west of Townsville and 400 kilometres east of Mount Isa. Richmond falls within the Richmond Shire Council local government area.

The Gulf Water Plan and the Great Artesian Basin and Other Aquifers (GABORA) Water Plan are both relevant to the Julia Creek and Richmond areas.

## 2.4 Land Requirements

In order to develop the strategic assessment, temporary access to and use of privately owned land for purposes such as investigative works may be required.

## 2.5 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.

The Coordinator-General will provide assistance to deliver the strategic assessment through the use of functions and powers relating to land access under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.