

Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline Project (construction and commissioning)

Project Report

May 2024

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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.

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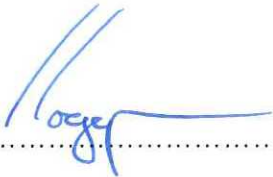
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Purpose of this report

This report supports amendments to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020 to facilitate the construction and commissioning of the Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline Project (**Project**). The amendment regulation is provided for under ss. 99, 100, 108, 109 and 173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



Gerard Coggan
Coordinator-General

3 June 2024

1. Background

In November 2019, in response to the low supplies in the Southern Downs region dams, the State committed \$1 million to investigate contingency water supply options for Warwick and surrounding communities.

A feasibility study undertaken as part of the investigation into the contingency water supply options, identified that the most appropriate solution given the estimated months of supply in Leslie Dam at that time, is a new water pipeline connecting water supply to Warwick from the Wivenhoe Dam via Toowoomba.

In April 2021, the Queensland Government announced a \$19.34 million drought resilience package for the Southern Downs region to ensure water security for the region. The package included \$8.1 million towards preparatory works for the Project, including detailed design, surveying, and geotechnical works.

In 2021, an approved works regulation was made under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (SDPWO Act)* to direct the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (trading as Seqwater) (**Seqwater**) and the Coordinator-General to undertake works reasonably connected with, or incidental to, the investigation and planning of the Project. A further direction is now proposed to be made under the SDPWO Act for the construction and commissioning of the Project.

In June 2022, the Queensland Government confirmed more than \$300 million funding for the Project, to provide long term water security in the Toowoomba and Southern Downs regions.

In April 2023, Seqwater was directed under section 61 of the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007* to construct and commission the pipeline. The purpose of this report is to support a regulation under the SDPWO Act directing Seqwater (a local body) and the Coordinator-General to undertake works for the construction and commissioning of the Project.

2. The Project

2.1 Responsible entity

The Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority is a statutory authority established under the *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007*. Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority is also a local body for the purposes of the SDPWO Act.

Seqwater delivered the detailed design and preparatory works for the pipeline in April 2022, which included survey, ecological and geotechnical investigations, capital cost estimates, review of required environment and heritage approvals. Seqwater has been appointed by the Queensland Government to undertake the construction and commissioning of the Project.

2.2 Project description

The Project consists of approximately 112 kilometres of pipeline, which will carry water from Wivenhoe Dam to Warwick via Toowoomba.

The pipeline is proposed to allow the transfer from Wivenhoe Dam of up to 10.3 megalitres per day comprising 3.0 megalitres per day for Toowoomba Regional Council (**TRC**) towns (Westbrook and Greenmount) on a permanent basis and 7.3 megalitres per day as a drought contingency supply for Warwick and surrounding communities (including Stanthorpe and Killarney).

The major components of the project are:

- one pipeline connection from TRC's Perseverance Pipeline (just upstream of the Mt Kynoch Water Treatment Plant)
- two x 3 megalitre (approx.) reservoirs at Highfields
- approximately 112 kilometres of pipeline from the connection point with Perseverance Pipeline to the Warwick Reservoir
- off takes at the rural TRC towns of Westbrook and Greenmount
- one intermediate pump station and one 100 kilolitre (approx.) Balance Tank
- Allora borefield supply connection into the pipeline
- one x 15 megalitre (approx.) reservoir at Warwick.

Other ancillary components such as laydown areas, construction areas, temporary access roads and site offices may also be required to support construction.

It is estimated the construction and commissioning of the Project will be completed by early 2027, weather and construction conditions permitting.

2.3 Project location

The proposed pipeline will connect to the existing raw water pipeline from Wivenhoe Dam north of Mt Kynoch water treatment plant, before travelling west around the perimeter of Toowoomba, and subsequently run south towards and near the townships of Wyreema, Cambooya, Greenmount, Nobby, Kings Creek, Clifton, Elphinstone, Allora, Hendon, Deuchar, Massie and Toolburra and finishes to the west of Warwick terminating at the new 15 megalitre Warwick Reservoir where it can then connect into Southern Downs Regional Council's supply network.

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 or interest holders as the majority of the pipeline is proposed to be built within the existing road and rail infrastructure corridors between Toowoomba and Warwick.

The maps at Appendix 1 identify the location of the pipeline and ancillary infrastructure.

2.4 Land Requirements

The proposed corridor is primarily situated within existing road reserves and rail corridors and will have minimum impact on private landowners or interest holders. There are some locations where that is not possible for safety or efficiency reasons, and negotiations have commenced to secure tenure for the pipeline in those areas.

In order to undertake final design works and facilitate the construction of the approved design, there may also 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.

3. The Coordinator-General

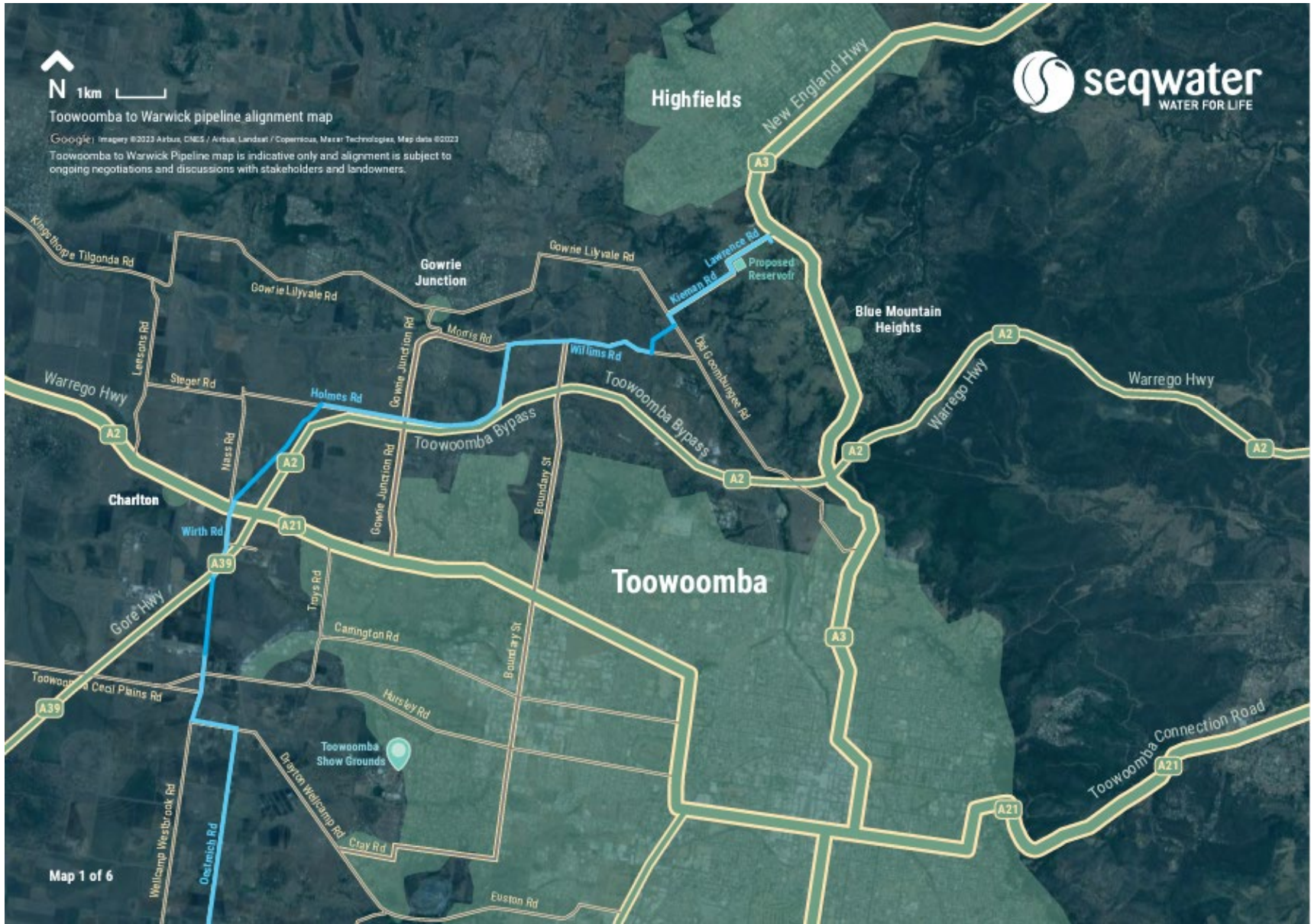
The Coordinator-General has functions and powers under the SDPWO Act to facilitate large-scale and complex projects, while ensuring their environmental and social impacts are properly managed.

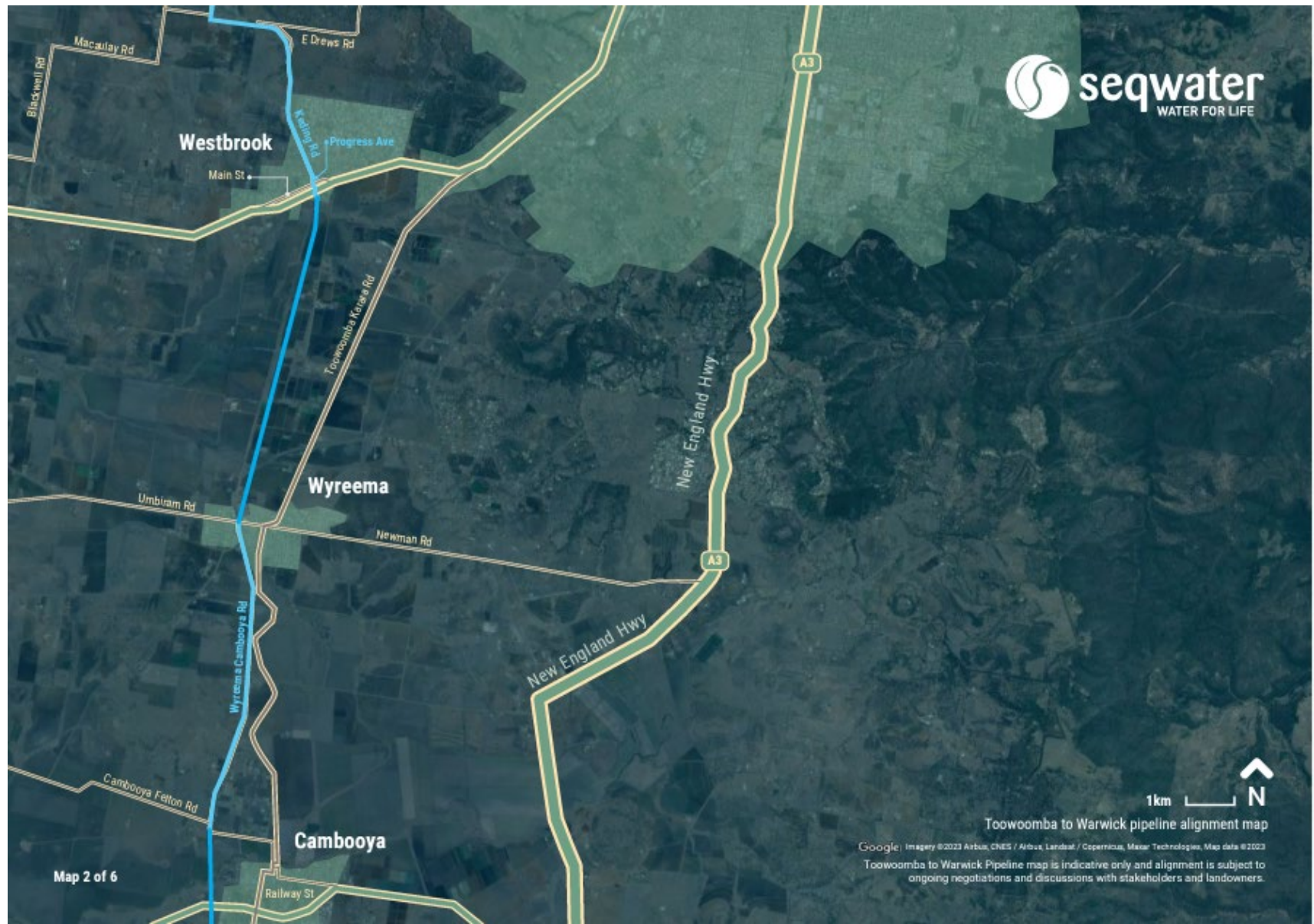
While Seqwater's preference is to meet their land requirements through negotiation and agreement with landowners and interest holders, the Coordinator-General may provide assistance for the efficient delivery of the Project through the use of the Coordinator-General's functions and powers under the SDPWO Act, including but not limited to: causing pipes to be laid, led or carried under, on, through or over any road or land, and in respect of roads, the power to open, close, rearrange roads and redirect traffic, acquisition of tenure interests and access to land.

Appendix 1 – Locality of Project

Locality of the Toowoomba to Warwick Water Pipeline Project



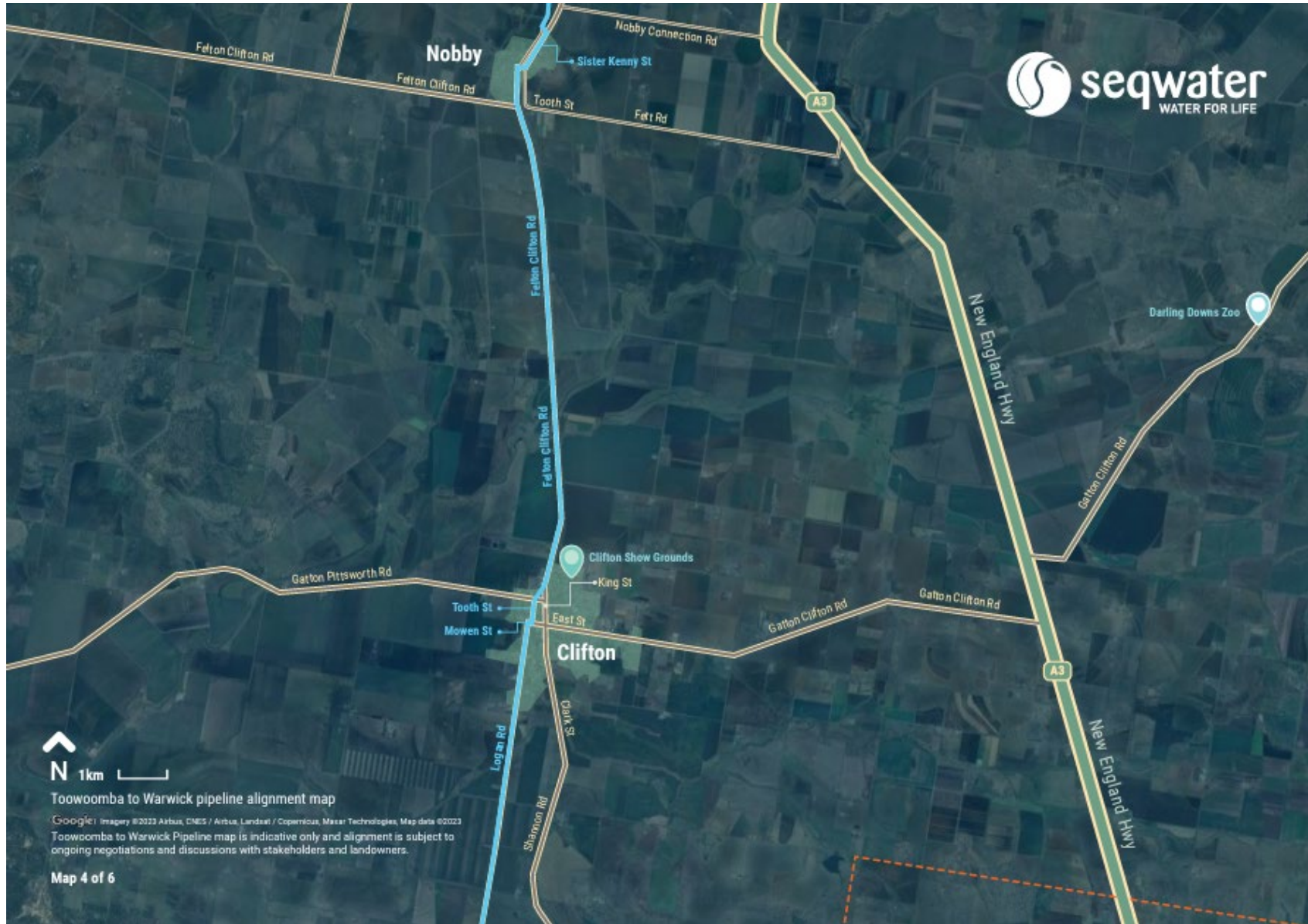


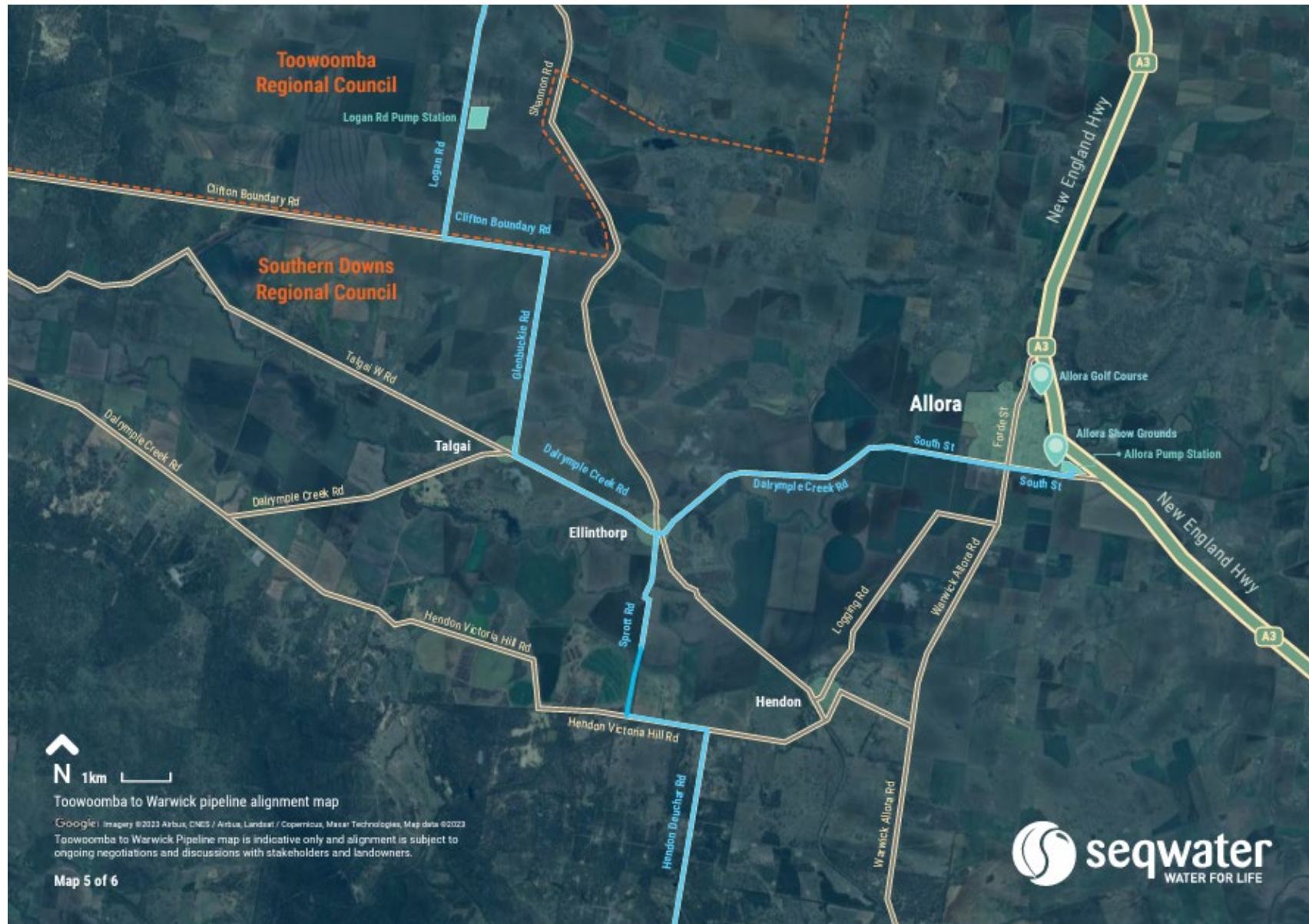


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