

# Impact Analysis Statement

## Summary IAS

### Details

<b>Lead department</b>	Department of State Development and Infrastructure
<b>Name of the proposal</b>	Amendment of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020 to insert exploratory works for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Project.
<b>Submission type</b> ( <i>Summary IAS / Consultation IAS / Decision IAS</i> )	Summary IAS
<b>Title of related legislative or regulatory instrument</b>	State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020
<b>Date</b>	July 2024

<b>Proposal type</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Minor and machinery in nature</b>	<p>This proposal is minor in nature, requiring corrections and an amendment to subordinate legislation to outline exploratory works to be undertaken for the Borumba Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Project. The proposal does not result in a substantive change to regulatory policy, increase costs or regulatory burden on business or the community.</p> <p>The Queensland Government has outlined a pathway to a clean, reliable and affordable energy system through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) and the Queensland SuperGrid Infrastructure Blueprint. The Borumba PHES Project was identified as one of two key long duration storage facilities to deliver on proposed renewable energy targets.</p> <p>Prompt project delivery is crucial to enhance energy reliability, facilitate decarbonisation, and contribute to Queensland's legislated renewable energy targets of 70% by 2032 and 80% by 2035, as under the <i>Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) Act 2024</i>.</p> <p>Queensland Hydro aims to commence exploratory works activities by late-2024. This proposal seeks to support the completion of exploratory works by streamlining the regulatory approval pathways.</p> <p>The Borumba PHES Project Exploratory Works involves Queensland Hydro undertaking works for environmental and geotechnical studies, to inform project design development and constructability of the Borumba PHES Project Main Works, and aid data capture to inform the environmental impact statement (EIS).</p> <p>The Office of the Coordinator-General has consulted with relevant state agencies, landowners, Gympie and Somerset Regional Councils. Further, an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) has been reached between the Kabi Kabi First Nation Traditional Owners Native Title Group. The National Native Title Tribunal registered the ILUA on 21 June 2024 (Q12023/003).</p> <p>The exploratory works activities, including the components associated with the works regulation, are subject to Commonwealth assessment which includes a statutory public consultation process under the <i>Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act). Approval of the exploratory works under the EPBC Act is required prior to exploratory works activities commencing.</p>

The regulation amendment would direct:

- Queensland Hydro to undertake the proposed Project Works
- the Coordinator-General to undertake Facilitation Works under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*, enlivening the powers and functions of the Coordinator-General under the SDPWO Act.

The proposed regulatory amendment would remove the requirement for certain local government development approvals for the Project Works. This will allow the exploratory works to commence in a timely manner.

Construction of the exploratory works are to be undertaken in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan and supporting management plans submitted to the Coordinator-General to ensure that potential impacts are managed.

The regulation amendment is considered minor as the impacts, usually assessed through a development application with relevant local authorities, will be considered by the Coordinator-General for the Project Works. Enlivening powers and functions of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* for a project of this significance aligns with community expectations.

Consequently, the regulatory proposal is minor and machinery in nature, and no further impact assessment is required under the *Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy*.

**Signed**



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Gerard Coggan  
Coordinator-General

Date: 29 August 2024



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Grace Grace MP  
Minister for State Development and Infrastructure  
Minister for Industrial Relations and  
Minister for Racing

Date: 30 August 2024