

# GLADSTONE – FITZROY PIPELINE PROJECT



project update

May 2008



## PIPELINE PREPARATIONS CONTINUE

Despite recent rainfall, the Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is progressing with environmental approvals and design of the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project to ensure the pipeline can be built within a two-year timeframe when it is required.

While the Gladstone region has sufficient water for the short-term – with 190,000 megalitres (ML) flowing into Awoonga Dam from recent rainfall – consistently low inflows during the past ten years and strong industrial growth in the region have signalled the need for a second source of water to ensure a long-term supply for the region.

GAWB is planning for the region's future water needs by proactively preparing contingency plans that will secure water

within a suitable timeframe when additional water supply is required. As part of this forward planning, GAWB is continuing with preparations for the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline, including finalising a preferred corridor, designing the pipeline and gaining the necessary environmental approvals, to ensure a two-year construction phase can commence as soon as low dam levels or increased demand trigger the need.

Once operational, the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will be capable of delivering up to 30,000ML of water each year, providing an additional water source to augment that from Awoonga Dam, currently the Gladstone region's sole source of water. ▽

## Triggers and timing

GAWB has identified two scenarios that would trigger the need to commence construction of the pipeline:

### Drought

GAWB has defined drought as a period of time where, taking into consideration the annual average of the worst three-year inflow sequence, water stored in Lake Awoonga could be insufficient to meet demand at some time during the next five years.

Prior to recent rainfall which added around two years of additional supply, this was the most likely trigger for the construction of the pipeline.

GAWB's Drought Management Plan provides more detail and can be viewed at [www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au](http://www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au).

### Demand

GAWB can currently supply around 70,000ML of water annually to customers based on its current allocation of water from Awoonga Dam. Increased demand for water would also trigger the need for GAWB to secure an additional water supply, as GAWB cannot take more than its allocation of water from the dam.

GAWB works closely with current and potential customers, including local councils who supply water directly to their rate payers, to monitor their projected requirements to ensure it will be able to meet the demand for water when it is needed. ▽



# ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS UPDATE

GAWB is currently in the process of finalising its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project.

## What is an EIS?

An EIS is a document prepared to report on a range of investigations undertaken for a project. It describes the existing conditions, provides information about the proposed project or works, and assesses the impacts and benefits of the changes resulting from the proposed project. The EIS also describes and assesses the management or mitigation measures that would be required to address the impact of the proposed project.

The purpose of the EIS is to provide decision makers with an accurate and considered description of the potential impacts and benefits of the proposed project, and detail of what

actions need to be taken to ensure negative impacts are avoided or minimised wherever possible. Both the construction and operational phases of the project are considered.

## Preparing the EIS

To ensure that the EIS adequately covers all issues relevant to the construction and operation of the project, the Coordinator-General issues the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EIS for community and government agency comment.

The ToR is essentially the 'rule book' for the preparation of the EIS. It outlines the topics that need to be addressed in the EIS, and defines the level of detail required in the description of the existing conditions, level of impact, and mitigation or management measures required.

The final ToR for the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project's EIS were issued to GAWB by the Coordinator-General on 30 October 2007, after a four-week public comment period.

## Your chance to comment

The project's EIS is expected to be released to the community in mid-2008 for a public comment period, during which time members of the community and other interested parties can make formal submissions based on the key findings.

The EIS will be accessible to the community in various formats including CD-Rom and hard copy. Information sessions and public displays will be conducted at this time to assist people in understanding the key findings of the EIS. ▽

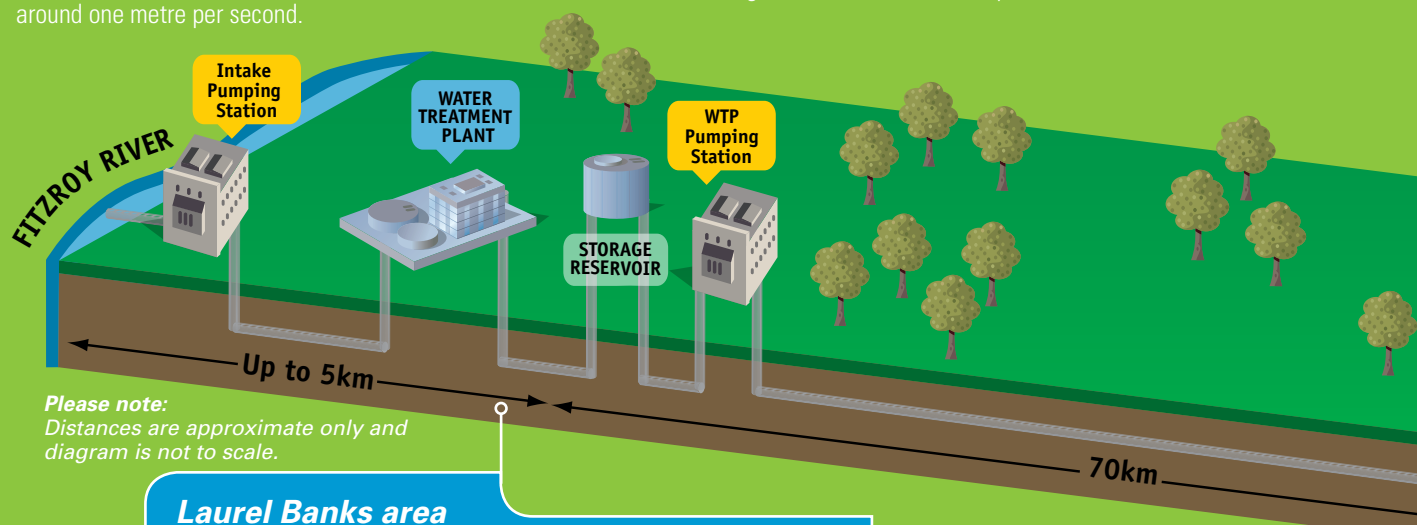
## It's not just a pipeline

There is more to the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline than just a pipe. In order to source water from the Fitzroy River and bring it to Gladstone in a suitable condition, other infrastructure is also required. This includes an intake structure, a water treatment plant, three reservoirs and three pumping stations. The diagram below (not to scale) shows how these elements will be arranged along the length of the pipeline.

When the pipeline is full it will contain around 90,000 cubic metres of water that will move along the pipeline at a speed of around one metre per second.

## Why treat the water?

Even though water sourced from the Fitzroy River will be used in GAWB's raw water reticulation system rather than being added directly to Awoonga Dam or GAWB's potable water system, it still has to be treated before it travels along the pipeline. This is to reduce the concentration of solid particles minimising the potential for the build up of silt in the pipeline, ensuring that the piped water is of a similar quality to that within Gladstone's existing raw water reticulation system. ▽



The intake structure, the initial pumping station, the water treatment plant, a storage reservoir (with a capacity of 7.5ML) and the second pumping station will be located in this area.

# Route and Site Selection

GAWB is currently finalising route and site options for the location of the pipeline and its associated infrastructure, including a Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Other key sites that GAWB must select are the pipeline's intake and intake pumping station on the Fitzroy River, the Raglan pumping station and the Aldoga Reservoir, as outlined in the diagram below. GAWB is pleased with the progress of its discussions with landowners to date regarding these sites and is continuing to work with landowners who have concerns about specific areas to resolve any issues.

From a technical perspective, site suitability is being assessed against a range of criteria including flood level, land slope, site access, soil conditions and proximity to residential buildings, the Fitzroy River and intake structures and pumps. GAWB has worked with landowners and relevant Aboriginal parties to undertake a number of technical investigations to assess these criteria. These technical investigations, along with desktop studies, consultation with landowners and site visits to potentially suitable locations, form the basis of GAWB's site selection process.

GAWB has assessed a variety of options to find solutions for the pipeline that are acceptable to the community, environmentally conscious and financially responsible. 🌱

## Preparations for pipeline design underway

GAWB has appointed a joint venture between Clough Projects Australia Pty Ltd, Diversified Construction Corporation Pty Ltd and United Group Infrastructure Pty Ltd, known collectively as the CDU Joint Venture. Under an Early Contractor Involvement contract, the CDU Joint Venture will prepare detailed design documentation and construction plans for the pipeline.

As with any major infrastructure project, the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project is complex and multi-faceted (as shown in the diagram below), with significant considerations needed to first locate the preferred route and suitable sites for its associated infrastructure, then establish an appropriate design and finally construct the pipeline. 🌱

## PROJECT TIMELINE\*

### April 2007

Project announcement.

### May 2007

Route selection commences.

### June 2007

Landowner consultation commences.

### August 2007

Technical investigations commence.

### October 2007

Final ToR for EIS released.

### January 2008

CDU Joint Venture appointed. Investigations to determine final route and design.

### Mid-2008

EIS released to public for comment.

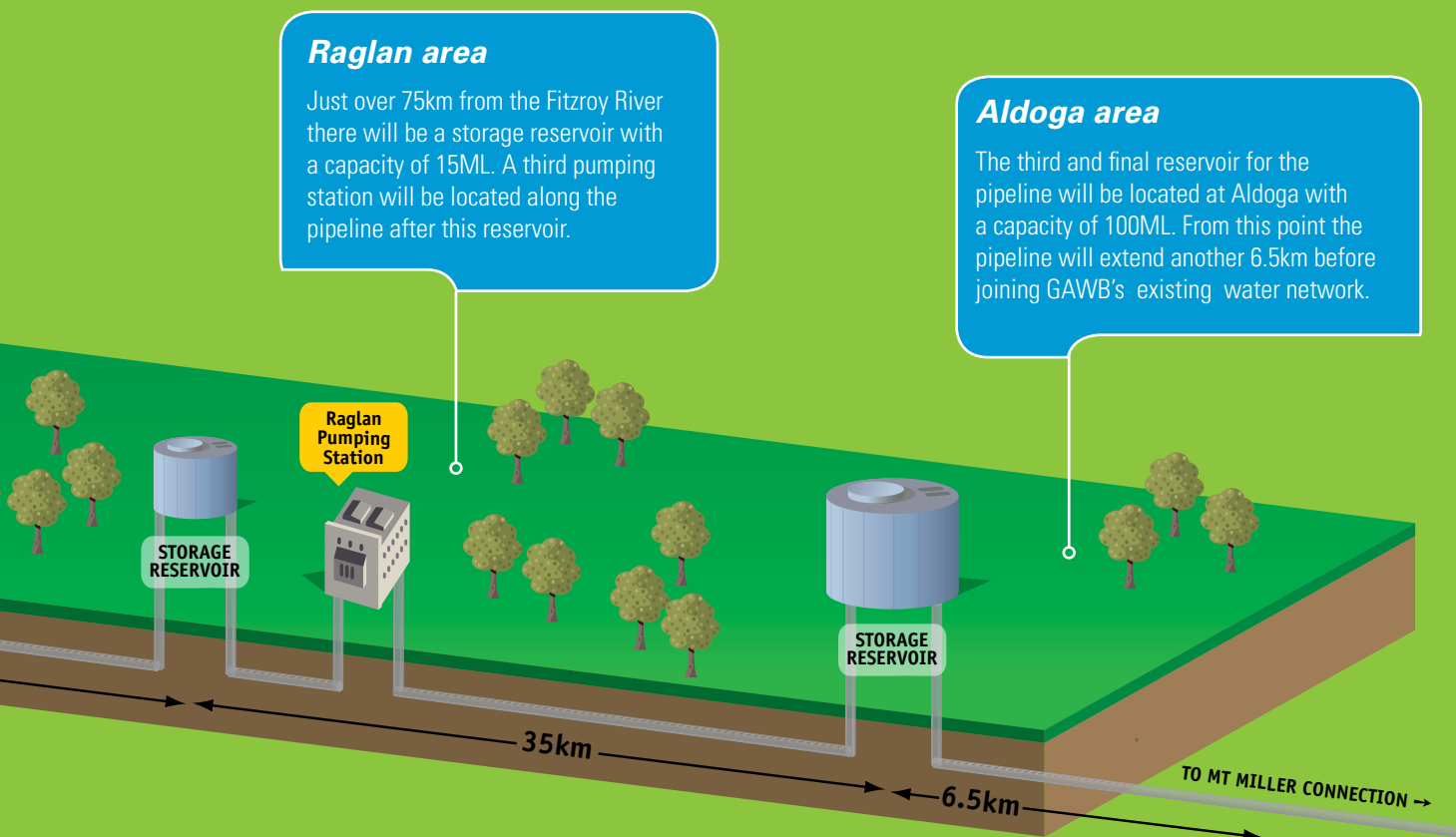
### Early 2009

Coordinator-General provides decision on the EIS.

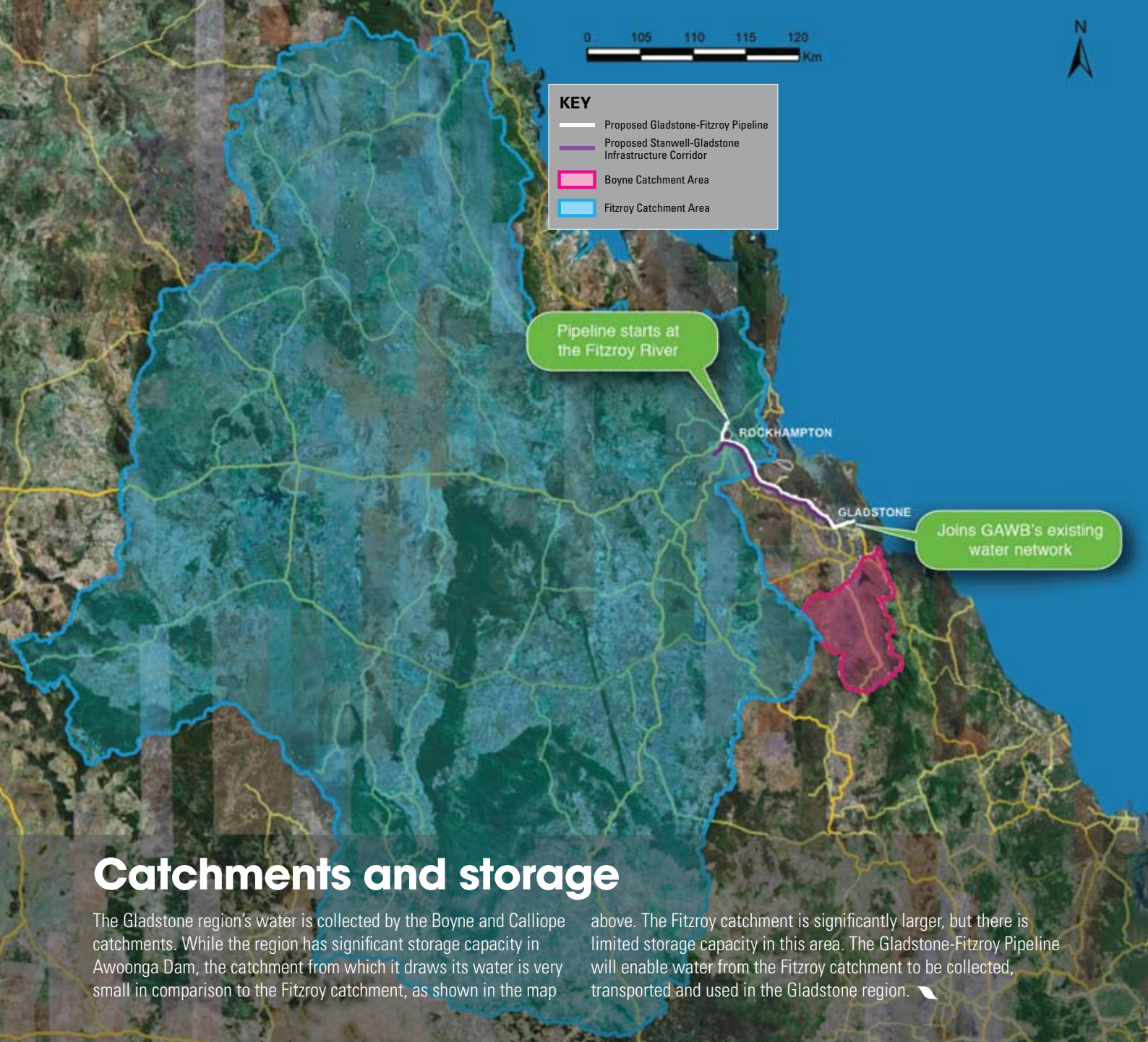
Construction to commence when drought or demand triggers need.

Pipeline operational two years after construction commences.

\* Based on current project timelines







## Catchments and storage

The Gladstone region's water is collected by the Boyne and Calliope catchments. While the region has significant storage capacity in Awoonga Dam, the catchment from which it draws its water is very small in comparison to the Fitzroy catchment, as shown in the map

above. The Fitzroy catchment is significantly larger, but there is limited storage capacity in this area. The Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will enable water from the Fitzroy catchment to be collected, transported and used in the Gladstone region. ▽

## FAST FACTS

- Awoonga Dam is the fourth largest dam in South East Queensland, with a capacity of 777,000ML (1.4 times that of Sydney Harbour).
- Water from the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will not be added directly to Awoonga Dam, it will be used in GAWB's raw water network which is used by industry in the region.
- Based on cost estimates, the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will bring lower prices to customers than an equivalent capacity desalination plant
- GAWB currently has an annual allocation of 70,000ML, to be increased to 78,000ML when Awoonga Dam fills for the first time (based on enough water in the dam to supply Gladstone for 10 years).
- The Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will be approximately 115km long, with a diameter of approximately 1m and a capacity to transfer up to 30,000ML per annum. ▽

## CONTACT

For more information about the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project:

**Web:** [www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au](http://www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au)

**Phone:** 1800 771 185

**Post:** Reply Paid PO Box 110 Gladstone Q 4680

**Email:** [info@gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au](mailto:info@gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au)



**Gladstone Area  
Water Board**