

GLADSTONE – FITZROY PIPELINE PROJECT



project update

November 2008



GLADSTONE-FITZROY PIPELINE EIS RELEASED

The Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) has taken the next step in its planning for the future water needs of the Gladstone region by preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline.

GAWB is carrying out preparations for the pipeline now, including seeking appropriate environmental approvals, to ensure that the pipeline and its associated infrastructure can be constructed within two years as soon as increased demand or low dam levels trigger the need.

The EIS reports on a range of investigations undertaken for the project and outlines the mitigation measures required to address the social, environmental and economic impacts of the project, during the construction, commissioning and operational phases. It addresses the topics outlined in the

final Terms of Reference (ToR) issued to GAWB by the Queensland Coordinator-General in October 2007.

Prior to assessing the EIS, the Coordinator-General has released the EIS to the community to gather their feedback on the report's findings. The 30-business-day public comment period commenced on Monday 3 November 2008 and will conclude on Monday 15 December 2008.

The EIS is available in hard copy, online and on CD Rom and a Summary of Major Findings is also available providing an overview of the EIS's key findings. GAWB is holding information sessions and public displays at various locations along the proposed pipeline route to assist the community in understanding the EIS. See page six for details on information sessions, public displays and how to make a submission. ➤

Project overview

While the Gladstone region has sufficient water for the short-term, consistently low inflows into Awoonga Dam during the past 10 years and strong industrial growth have signalled the need for a second source of water to ensure a long-term supply for the region. GAWB commenced planning on the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline in 2006, to ensure a reliable, long-term supply of bulk water for the region.

GAWB is preparing now for the region's future water needs 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 30,000 megalitres (ML) of water each year. This will provide GAWB with a second source of water to supply to the region, in addition to Awoonga Dam which is currently Gladstone's sole source of water. ➤



Gladstone's Awoonga Dam

THE CENTRAL QUEENSLAND WATER STORY

Like many areas in Australia, the Central Queensland region has faced prolonged drought in recent years. In response to this situation, the Department of Natural Resources and Water (DNRW) initiated the development of a regional, whole-of-Government strategy focused on finding the best solutions to efficiently meet the long-term water needs of the region.

GAWB's Strategic Water Plan

GAWB had previously carried out its own assessment of the best methods for securing water for the Gladstone region through its Strategic Water Plan (SWP). GAWB has assessed the merits of seawater desalination, further raising Awoonga Dam, using a pipeline to access water from the Fitzroy River, new weirs and dams and further demand management measures as

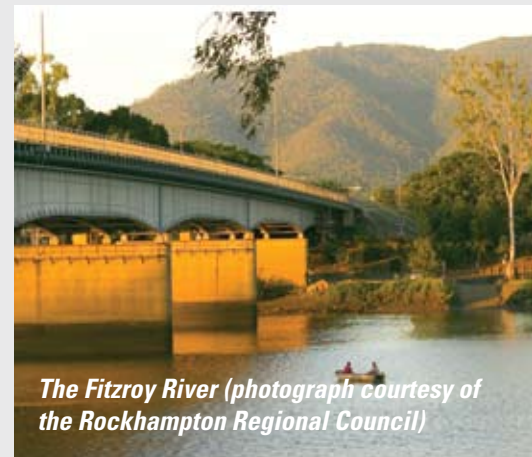
potential methods to ensure a reliable, long-term water supply for the region. GAWB determined that a pipeline from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone was the preferred option to ensure a reliable water supply for the region.

Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy

GAWB's SWP was considered by DNRW in the development of the regional strategy that became known as the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (CQRWSS).

The CQRWSS recommends that GAWB receive an allocation of 30,000 ML of water from the Fitzroy River each year. It also identified that a pipeline from the Fitzroy River to Gladstone is required to transport this water. This allocation of water is contingent on the construction

of additional in-stream storage in the Fitzroy River, which is likely to come in the form of a new weir at Rookwood and/or the raising of the Eden Bann weir. Work is currently progressing to assess these options to determine the most efficient option to secure additional water. 🐟



The Fitzroy River (photograph courtesy of the Rockhampton Regional Council)

WHO APPROVES THE EIS?

In 2007, the Queensland Coordinator-General declared the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project to be a 'significant project' requiring an EIS under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act).

The project was subsequently referred to the Australian Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Australian Government has since declared the project to be a 'controlled action' based on its potential impact on matters

of National Environmental Significance. Specifically, the Australian Government is concerned about impacts on Listed Threatened Species and Communities, including species such as the Capricorn Yellow Chat and the Fitzroy Tortoise.

The Australian Government has accredited the EIS process to be conducted under the SDPWO Act under the bilateral agreement between the Australian and Queensland Governments.

This means that the Queensland Coordinator-General will oversee the preparation and initial assessment of the project's EIS, with the Australian Government having the final say on whether or not to approve the EIS.

The EIS was prepared using the ToR issued by the Queensland Coordinator-General in October 2007.

The ToR set out the topics that need to be addressed by the EIS and were subject to a 30-day public comment period prior to being issued to GAWB. 🐟

CONSULTING THE COMMUNITY

Since announcing the project in June 2007, GAWB has been in close consultation with landowners directly affected by the proposed pipeline and its associated infrastructure. Together with geotechnical investigations and other field surveys, ongoing correspondence with landowners has helped GAWB to determine the most suitable pipeline route and infrastructure sites for the project. Local councils, industry and the broader community have also been kept updated via Project Update newsletters and website updates.

GAWB's dedicated Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project information line and email address will remain active during the EIS public comment period, and members of the public are encouraged to contact the team with any queries.

Online registrations can also be made via the project website to receive project updates via email.

Phone: 1800 771 185

Email: info@gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au

Web: www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au

Post: Reply Paid PO Box 110
Gladstone Q 4680 🐟

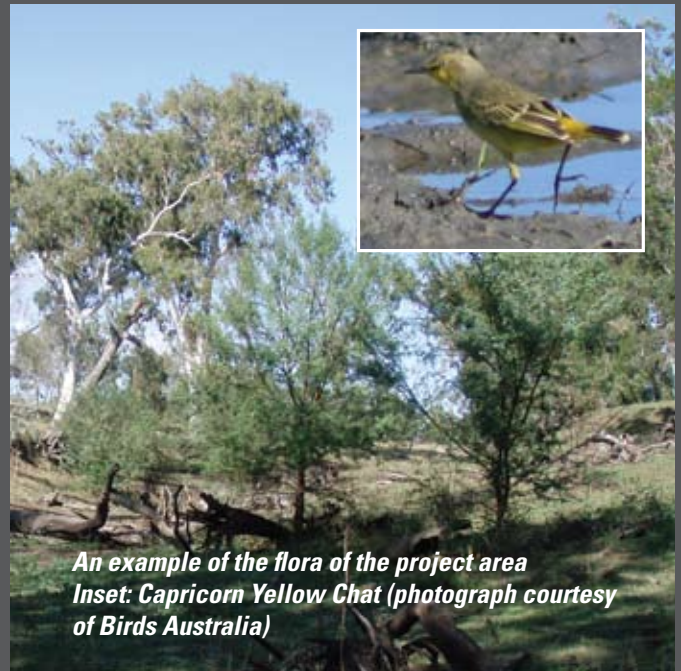


PROTECTING FLORA AND FAUNA

Desktop research and field studies has determined that the project would have minimal impact on terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna within the project area if appropriate environmental management measures are implemented.

GAWB has identified a number of measures to reduce the impacts of the project's construction and operation on flora and fauna, including:

- Minimising removal of vegetation where possible.
- Implementing weed, sediment and erosion control measures.
- Replanting removed vegetation where practicable and translocating rare or threatened saplings.
- Scheduling of construction activities to minimise the time between clearing and rehabilitating the pipeline corridor.
- Rehabilitation of areas disturbed by construction as closely as possible to pre-construction condition. 🌱



An example of the flora of the project area
Inset: Capricorn Yellow Chat (photograph courtesy of Birds Australia)

EIS FINDINGS – A SNAPSHOT

The EIS covers a broad range of topics that address the potential environmental, social and economic impact of the project. While the full EIS provides a thorough assessment of the investigations undertaken for the project, these pages are a snapshot of the EIS findings (see page six for details on where to view the complete EIS).



BOOSTING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

The project's contribution to the region's economy is estimated at \$113.7 million. Economic benefit to the region would be generated as a result of increased demand in the accommodation, earth moving, construction, business services, property and retail trade sectors. It is anticipated that Rockhampton will be one of the positively impacted areas in the short and medium-term as a result of increased demand for services in the accommodation, earth-moving and construction sectors.

In terms of employment, the project will create around 200 jobs during construction and around 10 jobs once operational, and will indirectly contribute to the creation of a further 300 Queensland jobs. Local labour and sub-contractors will be used where possible during construction of the pipeline. 🌱

HIGH SCORES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

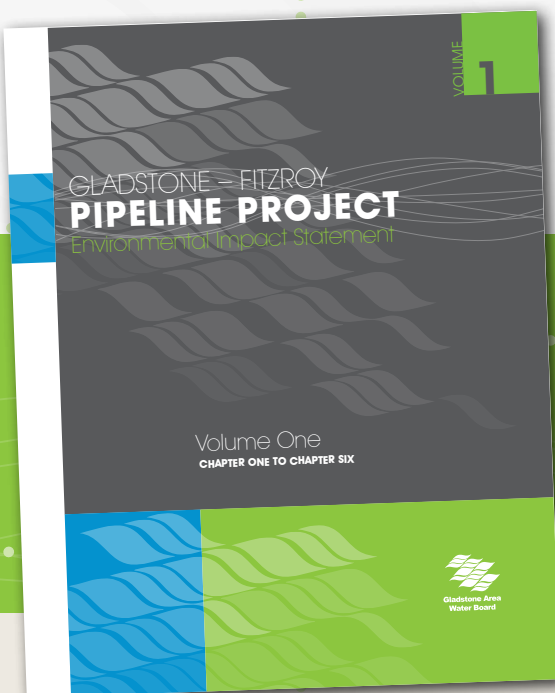
A sustainability assessment was undertaken to measure the sustainability performance of the project, with social and economic aspects identified as key strengths. These social strengths include health and wellbeing, stakeholder satisfaction, access and amenity and is largely due to the strong focus on stakeholder engagement, hazard and risk assessment and health and safety throughout the project.

Economic aspects of viability and competition effects, environmental aspects of air quality, land use and design and operation were also identified as strengths. \

NOISE CONTROL

As with any major infrastructure project, there will be some noise during the construction and operation of the pipeline. GAWB will manage the noise impacts with appropriate measures, including:

- Choosing the quietest equipment to construct and operate the pipeline where possible.
- Controlling noise at its source through appropriate work practices, i.e. careful loading of trucks away from residences where possible and ensuring operators are educated about noise issues.
- Informing residents of construction work and its expected noise impact ahead of its commencement.
- Designing infrastructure such as the Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant with appropriate noise mitigation measures. \



TREATING THE WATER

Water extracted from the Fitzroy River will be treated to remove suspended solids from the river water prior to its transport along the pipeline. A coagulant will be used in the water treatment process to assist in removing solids.

At the end of the treatment process, residue will remain that consists of water (approximately 70% of the total), the coagulant and other solids removed from the water (approximately 30% of the total).

On average, the WTP will produce about 120 tonnes of this residue each day, depending on seasonal and catchment conditions. The residue will be transported off-site by truck in accordance with local government regulations. \

VISUAL IMPACT

The short-term visual impacts of the construction period primarily relate to the visual appearance of the construction site, such as vehicles and workers, vegetation clearing, stockpiles, fencing and lighting.

These visual impacts will be mitigated by phasing on-site work, removing temporary hoarding and barriers when no longer required and locating storage facilities away from residential areas.

Careful consideration of the design of above ground structures and lighting would minimise the visual impact of the project during its operation. \



Visualisation of the Alton Downs Water Treatment Plant



Where to see the EIS

The EIS can be viewed online at www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au.

Alternatively, you can request a free CD Rom copy of the EIS by calling 1800 771 185.

Hard copies of the EIS can be viewed at the following locations during business hours throughout the public comment period:

- **Bajool Community Postal Agency**
60 High Street, Bajool
- **Capricornia Electorate Office**
145 - 149 East Street, Rockhampton
- **Fitzroy Electorate Office**
Suite 3, Gracemere Plaza,
Russell Street, Gracemere
- **Flynn Electorate Office (Gladstone)**
Suite 3, 120 Goondoon Street, Gladstone
- **GAWB Head Office**
147 Goondoon Street, Gladstone
- **Gladstone City Library**
39 Goondoon Street, Gladstone
- **Gladstone Electorate Office**
2/191 Philip Street, Gladstone
- **Gladstone Regional Council (Calliope Office)**
5 Don Cameron Drive, Calliope
- **Gladstone Regional Council (Gladstone Office)**
101 Goondoon Street, Gladstone

- **Marmor Community Postal Agency**
Bruce Highway, Marmor
- **Mt Larcom Library**
Raglan Street, Mount Larcom
- **Raglan Tavern**
Bruce Highway, Raglan
- **Rockhampton Electoral Office**
Shop 3, 7 Denham Street, Rockhampton
- **Rockhampton Northside Library**
154 Berserker Street, Rockhampton
- **Rockhampton Regional Council (Gracemere Office)**
1 Ranger Street, Gracemere
- **Rockhampton Regional Council (Rockhampton Office)**
232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
- **Rockhampton Southside Library**
Cnr William and Alma Streets, Rockhampton
- **Wandal Post Office**
Shop 4, 10 Wandal Road, Rockhampton
- **Yarwun Post Office**
40 Butler Street, Yarwun
- **State Library of Queensland**
Cultural Centre, Stanley Place,
South Bank, Brisbane

Hard copies of the EIS can also be purchased by calling 1800 771 185 or emailing info@gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au.

Information sessions

GAWB will be facilitating a number of information sessions at various locations to give community members the opportunity to speak directly with the project team and ask questions about the EIS findings.

Drop into a session at your convenience:

- **Raglan Target Sports Club House**
Thursday 6 November, 4:00 - 8:00pm
Hourigan Creek Rd, Raglan
- **Alton Downs Hall**
Friday 7 November, 4:00 - 8:00pm
Ridglands Road, Alton Downs
- **Rockhampton Walter Reid Cultural Centre**
Saturday 8 November, 10:00 - 2:00pm
Corner Derby & East Streets Rockhampton
- **Mt Larcom QCWA Hall**
Thursday 13 November, 4:00 - 8:00pm
King George St, Mount Larcom
- **Bajool Community Hall**
Friday 14 November, 4:00 - 8:00pm
High St, Bajool
- **Gladstone Entertainment Centre**
Saturday 15 November, 10:00 - 2:00pm
Goondoon Street, Gladstone

Have your say

Members of the community are invited to review the EIS and submit formal comments on any matter discussed in the document. Submissions are to be made in writing to Queensland's Coordinator-General.

Post:

Queensland Coordinator-General
C/- The Project Manager
Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline Project
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009
City East
Q 4002

Email: gfp@dip.qld.gov.au

Fax: (07) 3225 8282

Phone: (07) 3404 3639

Submissions must arrive by close of business on Monday 15 December 2008.

What happens next?

All submissions received during the public comment period will be collated by the Coordinator-General and where additional information is required to address the submissions, a supplementary report to the EIS will be prepared by GAWB.

The Coordinator-General will then provide a recommendation report to the Australian Government's Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) for the Minister to assess the EIS and the project in respect of national environmental significance matters according to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Once the EIS has been approved by DEWHA, the approval is valid for a period of four years.

Other State and local Government approvals separate to the EIS are also required before the project can proceed.

CONTACT

For more information about the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline project:

Web: www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au
Phone: 1800 771 185 (free call from landlines)

Post: Reply Paid PO Box 110 Gladstone Q 4680
Email: info@gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au

