

GLADSTONE – FITZROY PIPELINE PROJECT



project update

September 2009



Gladstone's Awoonga Dam

PIPELINE PREPARATION CONTINUES

Environmental Impact Statement

GAWB released the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the community in late 2008 for public comment. During the 30-day public comment period a total of 27 submissions were received.

Submitters made comments on a variety of topics including potential impact on existing infrastructure, traffic management during construction, vegetation clearing and the potential impact on private land.

To address these submissions, GAWB prepared a Supplementary Report to the EIS, which formally addresses and responds to the issues raised. All submitters were sent a copy of the supplementary report and the document can be viewed at www.gladstone-fitzroypipeline.com.au.

The EIS and its Supplementary Report have since been provided to the Queensland Coordinator-General for his consideration while preparing his evaluation report for the project's EIS.

Once this assessment is complete, the Coordinator-General's report will be sent to the Australian Government's Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for consideration as part of the Department's final assessment of the project.

It is expected that the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts will make a decision regarding the project's EIS later this year.

Land acquisition

GAWB is preparing to acquire land and easements that are critical to the project and is in negotiations with a number of individual landowners. GAWB will require land at Alton Downs for the water treatment plant and in the Raglan area for a pump station and reservoir.

GAWB also requires an easement for the pipeline that runs from the Fitzroy River to a point at Fairy Bower where it will join the State Government's Stanwell to Gladstone Infrastructure Corridor State Development Area.

GAWB is committed to working with landowners to address their individual concerns regarding these land requirements.

Cultural Heritage Management Plan

GAWB has met with representatives from the Port Curtis Coral Coast (PCCC) and Darumbal Indigenous groups and is in the process of negotiating a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for the project.

The CHMP will contain directions and processes to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected and preserved during the pipeline's construction.

As part of forming this agreement, an Aboriginal cultural heritage survey will be conducted in the coming months. This involves project and Indigenous group representatives walking the pipeline route to identify any items of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. Appropriate weed management practices would be employed at this time to protect private property during the survey.

Landowners will be contacted prior to the survey commencing to gain permission for the team to access their property for this purpose. 



The Fitzroy River at Laurel Bank



The Eden Bann Weir is located approximately 80 km upstream from the Fitzroy River barrage. It was constructed in 1994 and stores around 20,000 ML of water. The weir is owned and operated by SunWater.

Rookwood Crossing is located upstream from the Eden Bann Weir and is the potential location for a new weir.

Once constructed, the 115 km Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline will deliver up to 30,000 ML of water each year from the Fitzroy River to GAWB's raw water network.

Fitzroy River weir investigations

As outlined in previous project update newsletters, the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (CQRWSS) recommends that GAWB receive an allocation of 30,000 ML of water from the Fitzroy River each year. This water would be transported via the Gladstone-Fitzroy Pipeline to GAWB's raw water network in Gladstone. To make this allocation of water available to GAWB, it was identified that additional in-stream storage in Fitzroy River is required.

The Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project has now commenced and will investigate the options for additional water storage proposed in the CQRWSS, which include raising the Eden Bann Weir and constructing a new weir near Rookwood Crossing (see above map for locations).

GAWB and SunWater are working together to undertake the project. It will include assessment of the options and their timing

and completion of a business case and an Environmental Impact Assessment.

For more information about the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project, phone 1800 423 213 or email fitzroyweirs@ghd.com.au.

Pipeline project timing

Whilst GAWB is moving ahead with planning for the project, there is currently no construction start date for the pipeline, as neither a drought (based on low dam levels) or demand (based on increased customer water needs) trigger has been activated.

GAWB is working to design the pipeline, gain the appropriate approvals and secure the land required so that when a trigger is activated, the pipeline can be constructed within a two-year timeframe to ensure water is available when it is needed.

GAWB will continue to monitor rainfall and dam inflows and will work closely with its customers to monitor their future plans and water needs to ensure it can meet the projected demand for water.

For more information about the pipeline's construction triggers view GAWB's Drought Management Plan which is available online at www.gawb.qld.gov.au.

DAM LEVEL UPDATE

Lake Awoonga's storage capacity is currently just over 50 percent, down almost nine percent from its most recent peak which occurred after drought-breaking rain in February 2009.

At this peak, GAWB was able to lift the Low Supply Alert that had been in place since July 2007 when dam storage capacity dropped to around 33 percent.

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