

# QUEENSLAND WATER COMMISSION

## Briefing Paper:

DATE: 4 NOVEMBER  
2010

AGENDA ITEM: 7

DECISION REGISTER NO:  
10/199

## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS' UPDATE

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to provide a project update and address actions that have been raised at previous Commission meetings on the following key security projects:

- Upper Mary River system water supply development options;
- Optimising the yield of the Brisbane River system;
- Logan/Albert catchment investigations; and
- Phase 3b desalination investigations.

### 2. BACKGROUND

The South East Queensland Water Strategy (Water Strategy) provides a comprehensive planning and implementation framework to secure water supplies in south east Queensland for the long-term.

Recent additions to the water supply infrastructure are assessed as being able to meet the water requirements of the region until at least 2022. Beyond that date, additional sources of water supply are likely to be required.

The Water Strategy has identified a number of possible planning initiatives and actions to identify new water sources. Although new sources are not required in the short term, it is highly desirable that future sites be identified to ensure they can be secured for future development as that becomes necessary. Accordingly, the Queensland Water Commission (Commission) will be undertaking feasibility studies in a number of areas.

## Optimising the yield of the Brisbane River system

### *Project Overview*

The purpose of this project is to identify the most favourable means of increasing the take from the Brisbane River system within the constraints of the Water Resource Plan for comparison with other options in the region. The deliverable is a pre-feasibility study report which will identify the viability of increased take from the system and a report identifying other options to achieve take.

### *Project plan*

- A briefing note with an accompanying draft project plan and progress report was submitted to the Commission meeting in August 2010. Some modifications to the documentation were requested and it was agreed that the revised material would be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer out of session for approval.
- The Commission has been working with Seqwater to develop a two phase approach for delivery of the pre-feasibility stage.
- A summary of the two phase approach involves:
  - ~~phase one~~ – undertaking upstream and downstream flood modelling for the proposed 68 m FSL using the existing Flood Gate Operations Rules for Wivenhoe Dam; and
  - ~~phase two~~ – remodel the upstream and downstream flooding impacts for the proposed 68 m FSL by working with DERM to adjust the Flood Gate Operation Rules for Wivenhoe Dam.
- Both phases would need to be completed for a decision about moving from the pre-feasibility to the feasibility phase of the investigation, only that Phase one was considered sufficient for the Minister to consider if the investigations should continue.
- an opportunity was identified with the phased approach that would allow sufficient information to be provided to the Minister to decide if the project should continue.
- It is anticipated that the revised draft project plan will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer before the Commission meeting in November 2010.

### *Project resourcing*

- A draft terms of reference to engage a consultant to evaluate alternative sources of supply has been developed. Consideration was given to appointing SunWater to undertake the investigation. SunWater advised that it does not have sufficient resources to complete the investigation within the required timeframe and are therefore not available to conduct the investigation. The Chief Executive Officer's approval will be sought to appoint a suitably qualified contractor.
- Informal discussions have been held with Professor Colin Apelt and John Mulheron in relation to their availability to serve on the steering committee as independent experts. Both have expressed willingness to participate. Approval will be sought for their engagement.
- Community consultation aspects of this project will form part of the tasks to be undertaken by the Community Consultation Advisor.
- Following the Commission meeting in August 2010, Seqwater was asked to prepare a revised proposal for the flood modeling work including a timetable and estimate of cost. This was received on 15 October 2010.

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- The information provided by Seqwater has been incorporated into the revised briefing note, which will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer. It is expected that Seqwater will be engaged to carry out the work as soon as approval to proceed is provided.

#### *Steering committees/project reference groups*

- Discussions were held with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, Seqwater, Brisbane City Council and Ipswich City Council regarding their participation on a steering committee to oversee and contribute to the studies. A meeting will be arranged with Somerset Regional Council by the Commission meeting in November 2010. Formal requests will be made following approval of the project.
- A draft terms of reference for the project steering committee has been prepared and will be reviewed and agreed to by the project steering committee. The Chief Executive Officer's consideration of the membership of and terms of reference for the project steering committee will be sought.

#### *Correspondence*

- No change since last update.

#### *Action items*

- A status update on the required action items has been provided as **Attachment 2**.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commissioner **note** this paper as a record of this briefing.

#### 5. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Upper Mary River project update
- Attachment 2 – Optimising of the yield of the Brisbane River project update
- Attachment 3 – Logan/Albert Catchment Investigations project update
- Attachment 4 – Desalination Investigations project update
- Attachment 5 – Response to the Chief Executive Officer's comments

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Queensland Water Commission

Record of Decision Register No: 10/199

Action Item Number 7

Infrastructure Projects' Update

- Noted
- Approved
- Not Approved
- Further information/meeting required

Comments


Signed: ..... Date: / / 2010  
Mary Boydell, Commissioner

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## ATTACHMENT 2 – OPTIMISING THE YIELD OF THE BRISBANE RIVER

### Responses to requested actions

Required Action	Response/Update
(i) It was agreed that the Steering Committee should be convened as quickly as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions have been held with representatives of the Department of Environment and Resource Management, Seqwater, Brisbane City Council and Ipswich City Council regarding their participation on a steering committee to oversee and contribute to the studies. A meeting will be arranged with the Somerset Regional Council by the Commission meeting in November 2010. Formal requests will be made following approval of the project.</li> <li>A draft terms of reference for the project steering committee has been prepared and will be reviewed and agreed to by the project steering committee. The Chief Executive Officer's consideration of the membership of and terms of reference for the project steering committee will be sought.</li> </ul>
(ii) Confirm that John Mulheron has been appointed if available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal discussions have been held with Professor Colin Apelt and John Mulheron in relation to their availability to serve on the steering committee as independent experts. Both have expressed willingness to participate. Approval will be sought for their engagement.</li> </ul>
(iii) Public commitment to publish reports with a peer review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This activity will be supported in the communication strategy for the project, but is subject to the views of the Project Steering Committee.</li> </ul>
(iv) Issue of purified water going into dam must not be forgotten.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial discussions by the Acting General Manager Regional Planning and Policy with the Water Assessment Group at the Department of Environment and Resource Management suggest minimal impact but this will be further investigated based on revised operating strategies presently under review.</li> </ul>
(v) Sensitivities to LoS criteria e.g. 1 in 20 year or 1 in 50 year restrictions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modelling by the Water Information Unit at the direction of the Acting General Manager Regional Planning and Policy to test sensitivities will be undertaken following completion of the recent operating strategy and price path review.</li> </ul>

ENSURE QWC DECISIONS.

<p><b>Page 3 – Optimising the yield of the Logan/Albert system:</b> <del>WIVERIDGE</del></p> <p>A draft terms of reference to engage a consultant to evaluate alternative sources of supply has been developed. Representatives of the Commission and SunWater met in September to discuss appointing SunWater to undertake the investigation.</p>	<p>A potential conflict of interest could arise from meeting with SunWater to discuss appointing them.</p> <p>SUNWATER BILLALAO + SPENDILL MONEY.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Procurement Policy preserves the right of each agency to deal directly with competitively neutral, commercialised business units within their own agency or other agencies that are acting for the Crown in the same right without the requirement to comply with the competitive purchasing processes.</li> <li>• SunWater is a government-owned corporation that provides engineering consultancy services.</li> <li>• Meeting with SunWater does not represent a conflict of interest, as they would not be appointed through a competitive purchasing process.</li> <li>• Since the draft paper was submitted to the CEO, representatives of SunWater have advised the Project Manager that SunWater does not currently have the resources to conduct the investigation.</li> <li>• The CEO's approval will be sought to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to undertake the investigation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Page 3 – Optimising the yield of the Brisbane River</b></p>	<p>There is a commitment to complete the pre-feasibility investigations for optimising the yield of the Brisbane River system by March 2011.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project plan was submitted to the Commission meeting in August 2010, which outlined the resourcing and governance arrangements to ensure that the project milestones will be achieved.</li> <li>• The project scope has been divided into two phases.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that the phase 1 pre-feasibility study will be completed by March 2011. Approval will then be sought from the Minister for Natural</li> </ul>

# QUEENSLAND WATER COMMISSION

## Commission Meeting Minutes

**Meeting No:** 10 - 2010

**Location:** Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Floor 16, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane

**Date:** 4 November 2010

**Time:** 9.25am – 3.45pm

**Chair:** Commissioner Mary Boydell

**QWC Attendees:** Karen Waldman, Margaret Hoekstra, Gayle Leaver, Tad Bagdon and Steve Davey

**Invited Guests:** Richard Scott, Anita Sweet, Rolf Rose, Patricia Hurikino, Julie Allan, Peter Sommer, Chris McKenna, Christine Yates (QWC), Anthony Mathas, Lisa Bourke, and Dave Suthers (DERM)

**Apologies:** Randall Cox



**2. Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River - update**

Terms of Reference to be amended to confirm that the Steering Committee provides advice not recommendations.