

QUEENSLAND WATER COMMISSION

Briefing Paper:

DATE: 17 FEBRUARY
2011

AGENDA ITEM: 7

DECISION REGISTER NO:
11/06

PROJECT UPDATE: PLANNING PROJECTS – JANUARY 2011

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the following water supply investigations:

- 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) 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 on a number of water supply options.

Based on current demand projections additional demand driven supply is not required until 2028 under a 200 litres per person per day residential demand scenario and medium series population growth. It is still considered prudent to investigate potential future supply option now in order to be able to make sound recommendations to Government when required.

Monthly Project Progress updates are provided in **Attachments 2 to 5**.

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 update

Flooding along the Brisbane River has delayed this project. Seqwater and the Director Planning Projects indicated to the Commission at the outset that the need to deal with flood management would take priority for the staff involved in the process.

The Judicial Inquiry announced by the Premier may have implications for the future scope of this project.

The existing scope will be discussed with the PRG at its inaugural meeting on Friday, 25 February 2011 at Wivenhoe Dam. A proposed revised scope is provided in the attached project progress report. Proposed changes to the scope and project plan will be provided to the Commissioner for consideration. The revised project plan would initially target 'no regret' work that could assist with the inquiry or would be unlikely to be impacted by the outcomes of the inquiry.

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.

The scope will be reconsidered in response to the recent flooding along the Brisbane River. The scope is intended to be refined through input from the PRG with this and the Project Plan being provided to the Commissioner for consideration.

Project Resourcing

See 'Issues affecting all projects'

Steering Committees/Project Reference Groups

Brisbane City Council; Ipswich City Council, Somerset Regional Council; the DERM, Seqwater and Professor Colin Apelt have accepted an invitation to participate in the PRG. Mr Mulheron was invited to be part of the PRG but has declined on the basis that he will be absent overseas. A short list of suitable replacements for Mr Mulheron is being prepared.

An informal meeting was held with Professor Apelt on Monday 31 January 2011. Professor Apelt is supportive of the project and is of the view that there are common linkages with the State Judicial Inquiry and his review of Seqwaters compliance with the Flood Operation Manual.

The inaugural meeting of the PRG is scheduled for 25 February 2011 at Wivenhoe Dam.

BACK TO PROPOSED
PROCESS

4. RECOMMENDATION

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

5. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Planning Project's staff distribution for projects
- Attachment 2 – Upper Mary River project progress report – January 2011
- Attachment 3 – Optimising of the yield of the Brisbane River project progress report – January 2011
- Attachment 4 – Logan/Albert catchment investigations project progress report – January 2011
- Attachment 5 – Phase 3b Desalination Investigations project progress report – December 2010 / January 2011

Queensland Water Commission

Record of Decision Register No: 11/06

Action Item Number 7

Project update: Planning Projects – January 2011

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

Comments

Signed: Date: / / 2010
Mary Boydell, Commissioner

Action Officer: Andrea Bell-Booth
Endorsed by: Peter Sommer
Group/Unit: Planning Projects
Telephone: Telephone Number [REDACTED]
TRIM Ref: D/11/002878

Project Progress Report

January 2011

Project:	Optimising the yield of the Brisbane River system
Organisational unit	Planning Projects
Project Manager	Ken Pearce

Project Scope

The purpose of this project is to undertake a detailed investigation to determine the maximum level to which the working storage of Wivenhoe Dam could be raised without raising the dam walls. 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 Status

Impacts of flooding

The scope will be reconsidered in response to the recent flooding in the Brisbane River valley.

The scope is intended to be refined through input from the Project Reference Group with this and the Project Plan being provided to the Commissioner for consideration. At this stage the proposed scope is as follows:

Optimise water supply and flood mitigation in the Brisbane River system using existing water supply infrastructure (Wivenhoe Dam), new infrastructure and operational arrangements. This would require the consideration of:

- a FSL for existing water supply infrastructure (Wivenhoe Dam) that balances supply and flood mitigation;
- new infrastructure that can optimise the yield of the system and or flood mitigation;
- new and existing infrastructure working in unison to optimise supply and flood mitigation;
- improving or upgrading downstream infrastructure that would increase operational flexibility at upstream structures, such as raising road crossings downstream of Wivenhoe Dam; and
- operational improvements.

A dynamic FSL approach for water supply infrastructure in the Brisbane River system would be considered. This dynamic approach could take into consideration the likelihood and degree of inflows in the water cycle year along with the supply/demand balance of the South East Queensland Water Grid.

The balancing of water supply and flood mitigation would need to consider parameters in the WRP and ROP. The optimum outcome may therefore involve legislative amendments.

Project Update

Seqwater's Mr John Tribaldi has advised that recent flooding will delay the start of the Project by at least two months as the flood modellers are fully committed to other work. Seqwater advised the Commission at the outset that flood management had priority over this project. They are producing a report on the recent flooding and have engaged Professor Apelt to review the work being undertaken.

The State Judicial Inquiry into flooding in the Brisbane River valley may affect Seqwater's ability to commit to this study.

Project Reference Group

The following organisations/individuals have accepted an invitation to participate on the Project Reference Group (PRG):

- Brisbane City Council; Ipswich City Council and Somerset Regional Council;
- Department of Environment and Resource Management;
- Seqwater; and
- Professor Colin Apelt.

Mr Mulheron was invited to be part of the PRG but has declined on the basis that he will be absent overseas. A short list of suitable replacements for Mr Mulheron is being prepared.

An informal meeting was held with Professor Apelt on Monday 31 January 2011. Professor Apelt is supportive of the project and is of the view that there are common linkages with the State Judicial Inquiry and his review of Seqwaters compliance with the Flood Operation Manual.

The inaugural meeting of the PRG is scheduled for 25 February 2011 at Wivenhoe Dam.

Schedule

	Milestones	Target Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date
1	Establish Project Reference Group	End of February 2011	25 February 2011
2	Report to Minister	End of March 2011	End of June 2011
3	Pre-feasibility Report	End of June 2011	End of November 2011

General comment on schedule:

Project has been delayed by recent flooding in the Brisbane Valley.

Budget*

Exp. To Date	\$0	Commitments To Date	\$0
Target Final Cost	\$186 000	Forecast Final Cost	\$186 000

**does not include operational expenditure*

No monies have yet been expended for this project.

The forecast final cost may change due to flood considerations.

The Planning Projects Unit has not yet been allocated funds from the Regional Planning and Policy budget for its projects; no monies have been loaded into project cost centres.

Project Exception*

**only needs to be reported on if an exception report is required.*

Nil

Quality & Compliance

Communications and Community

The slippage of the project schedule can be attributed to factors including:

- the DG/DERM requiring with the support of the MRCCC prior to further progression of the project;
- additional time to negotiate DERM's involvement in the project;
- delaying the engagement of the prime consultant to follow the finalisation of the project plan and the community consultation plan; and
- additional time for internal processes and approvals.

The detail of the community consultation plan is yet to be determined and may affect the project timeframes.

The timeframe for the consultancy work is yet to be agreed with the preferred offeror.

A more detailed Gantt chart is available at D/10/059095

Budget*

Exp. To Date	\$0	Commitments To Date	\$0
Target Final Cost	\$649 200	Forecast Final Cost	\$649 200

**does not include operational expenditure*

Budget requirement to be finalised upon receipt of offers for the consultancy work.

The Planning Projects Unit has not yet been allocated funds from the Regional Planning and Policy budget for its projects; no monies have been loaded into project cost centres.

Project Exception*

**only needs to be reported on if an exception report is required.*

Nil

Quality & Compliance

Nil

Communications and Community

Mary River Recovery Plan for Threatened Species

The Commission has been invited by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPAC) to participate in a steering committee for the development of a threatened species recovery plan for the Mary River. It is essential the Commission is involved in the steering committee to ensure any proposed Mary River system water infrastructure development options are considered in the development of the threatened species recovery plan. The Commission's role is to provide the communication link between the recovery planning work and the project, not developing the recovery plan.

Ms [REDACTED] and Mr Ian Hanks attended a meeting on 8 December 2010 convened by SEWPAC and will be attending future meetings of the recovery team.

Principal outcomes of the 8 December meeting were that:

- SEWPAC are to prepare an Australia wide recovery plan for the lungfish as required under Commonwealth legislation; and
- The MRCCC is to prepare terms of reference for a Mary River Recovery plan including consideration of the Lungfish, the Mary River Cod and the Mary River Turtle.

Mr Steve Burgess of the MRCCC advised Commission officers at the meeting that the GRC and SCRC Mayors had informed him of the Commission project and that he was likely to be the MRCCC nominated representative to the PRG.

Significant communication, community consultation or marketing planned for coming two months:

A meeting with MRCCC, GRC and SCRC representatives is to be convened on 10 February 2011.

HR

This project is one of a series of projects that do not have the resources stated in the project plans available. Planning Projects have only five (5) full time equivalents (FTE), while the project plans are based on twelve (12) FTEs. Currently only Ian Hanks, Principal Policy Officer and [REDACTED] Senior Policy Officer are allocating some time to manage this project.

Risk Management

Risk	Management Strategy
MRCCC may not be supportive of the proposed scope of the project.	A meeting is to be convened on 10 February 2011 with MRCCC, QCC, GRC and SCRC representatives to discuss the project and seek their support.
There may be differing opinions among PRG members regarding the scope and nature of community consultation.	The project timeframe has been delayed so that a community consultation plan can be endorsed by the PRG and approved by CEO/QWC prior to the awarding of the main consultancy to assess the options.
DG/DERM may not be agreeable to DERM carrying out the hydrological assessments for the project as an in-kind contribution, as is proposed in a draft letter to him.	A nominal amount of \$100 000 has been allowed in the project plan budget for the hydrological assessments to be carried out by a consultant.
The fees in the offers for the main consultancy, the hydrological assessments and the contract community advisor may exceed that budgeted.	A 20% contingency sum has been included in the project plan budget. Estimated costs have been based on the costs of similar projects.

QUEENSLAND WATER COMMISSION

Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting No: 1 - 2011
Location: Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Floor 16, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane
Date: 17 February 2011
Time: 8.10am – 3.25pm
Chair: Commissioner Mary Boydell
QWC Attendees: Karen Waldman, Margaret Hoekstra, Tad Bagdon (part of meeting), Gayle Leaver, Randall Cox (part of meeting) and Steve Davey
Invited Guests: Rolf Rose, Anita Sweet, Julie Allan, Wai-Tong Wong, and Peter Sommer (QWC).
Anthony Mathas, Dave Suthers and Lisa Bourke (DERM).
Apologies: Nil

1 WELCOME

The Commissioner opened the meeting at 8.10am, and welcomed attendees. It was agreed that the agenda would be modified and items brought forward.

2 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD 2 DECEMBER 2010

The Commissioner:

- approved the minutes as tabled.

PROJECT UPDATE PLANNING PROJECTS – JANUARY 2010 (Agenda Item 7)

The paper and various attachments were discussed.

5.
 - o In the context of the discussions regarding the Project for Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River System the Commissioner commented that QWC officers must remember that the QWC is concerned with long term sustainability and that we do long term planning for preparedness. Accordingly there is a need to manage our projects on the basis of preserving the options set out in the Water Strategy whilst ensuring we prepare for the future. She indicated that it may be time to step back from, or to take a pause with, some projects until we have reviewed the Water Strategy, given the changed context in which we are now operating. With specific reference to this project the Commissioner emphasised that QWC is not involved in flood mitigation per se, but that it is a relevant consideration in the context of our water supply planning activities. We need to be clear about our role so that we consult appropriately with relevant stakeholders. Before communicating with stakeholders we need to ensure that our communications appropriately represent the endorsed QWC position
 - o There was a need for a 'stocktake' to be undertaken of all the infrastructure projects to ensure relevance, priority and urgency in relation to the current context for the SEQ Water Strategy

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❖ **Actions**

- Upper Mary River System Water Supply Development Options – all communications with external stakeholders must be approved in advance by the CEO.
- Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River System – the CEO will clarify the Commission's official position regarding this project to ensure stakeholders are fully informed – action CEO.
- Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River System – Commissioner noted earlier comments.
- Phase 3B Desalination Site Investigations – (i) Peter Sommer is to confirm the agenda and attendees at the Steering Committee meeting to be held 18 February and (ii) the consultancy is to progress – action GM, RP&P.

The Commissioner:



The Meeting closed at 3.25pm.

Confirmed [REDACTED]

Chair: Mary Boydell

Date 16/03/2011.

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11/06	21/1/11	Briefing Note Commission Meeting 17 February 2011	Project Update: Planning Projects	Regional Planning and Policy	D/11/000725	17/2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Mary River System Water Supply Development Options – all communications with external stakeholders are to be approved in advance by the CEO. • Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River System – the CEO will clarify the Commission's official position regarding this project to ensure stakeholders are fully informed – action CEO. • Optimising the Yield of the Brisbane River System - Phase 3B Desalination Site Investigations – (i) Peter Sommer is to confirm the agenda and attendees at the Steering Committee meeting to be held 18 February and (ii) the consultancy is to progress – action GM, RP&P. <p>The Commissioner noted the paper as a record of the briefing.</p>
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NB: Areas shaded in yellow are outstanding items