



Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Announcement

December 2022

This is a community update on Sunwater's Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement and Raising projects. You're receiving this email as you have recently shown an interest in the projects however, if you don't wish to receive these emails, please select the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email.

Burdekin Falls Dam and Lake Dalrymple is on the traditional lands of the Birriah and Jangga peoples who have a continued sacred connection to Country and are the Traditional Custodians of the land, water and sky we rely on. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We can learn so much from Traditional Custodians who have cared for Country for thousands of years in how we sustainably manage water and land.

Burdekin Falls Dam Raising announcement

The Queensland Government has today announced its support for Sunwater to progress an environmental impact statement (EIS) based on a two-metre raising of Burdekin Falls Dam, following initial consideration of Sunwater's detailed business case (DBC).

The DBC outlined options to increase the dam's water supply and long-term viability, alongside required safety improvements. A comprehensive forecast of future water demand was undertaken to inform the potential raising height. The independent assessment demonstrated that projected water demand may exceed current availability by 2031 and that a raising of two metres could address this future demand.

Although Burdekin Falls Dam continues to operate as it should, improvement works must be undertaken to bring the dam in line with modern engineering design and safety standards. The proposed dam raising provides an opportunity to increase water supply in the region and deliver the required safety upgrades to improve the dam's resilience to pass significant floods in the future.

Further information is available in this [fact sheet](#) and on the Burdekin Falls Dam Raising Project [webpage](#).



Burdekin Falls Dam raising announcement in Townsville, Thursday 8 December 2022. L - R: Sunwater CEO Glenn Stockton, Mundingburra MP Les Walker, Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper, Minister for Water Glenn Butcher, Townsville MP Scott Stewart, Professor and Economist Ross Garnaut.

Proposed works

The proposed works involve raising the existing spillway by two metres, raising the left and right abutments – the walls either side of the spillway – using concrete buttressing, raising and widening the saddle dams, and constructing a new saddle dam on the right bank.

Raising the dam's height by two metres will increase the storage capacity by 574,240 megalitres (ML) or 31 per cent. This will take the total capacity of the dam to an estimated 2,434,240 megalitres and deliver approximately 150,000 ML of additional water supply (medium-priority equivalent).

Environmental impact statement (EIS)

An EIS is required for the proposed dam raising and Sunwater has begun its preparation. The EIS will assess:

- the current environment around the project
- potential environmental, economic and social benefits and impacts of the project
- proponent proposals to avoid, minimise, mitigate and/or offset those potential impacts.

The EIS Terms of Reference are available to [download here](#).

The Queensland Coordinator-General (CG) will release a draft EIS for public review and comment once satisfied Sunwater has met the EIS Terms of Reference. During this time, the public and State Government advisory agencies will have the opportunity to review and make submissions on the draft EIS in relation to the assessment of impacts and commitments.

Pending approval of the EIS, the Queensland Government will consider an investment decision on progressing the project.

Timing

The next stage of planning includes progressing design, collecting more detailed geotechnical information, procurement planning and consulting with key stakeholders and the community to progress the EIS.

Sunwater expects to submit a draft of the EIS to the CG in 2023. Community consultation has commenced, and further updates will be provided as the EIS progresses and following the CG's acceptance of the draft EIS.

Want to find out more about the Burdekin Falls Dam projects?

Visit the Sunwater website: [Projects](#)

Download the project [fact sheet](#).

Email the project team: burdekin.projects@sunwater.com.au

Phone the project hotline: 1800 325 145 - Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm.

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