

Queensland Coordinator-General's evaluation of the environmental impact statement

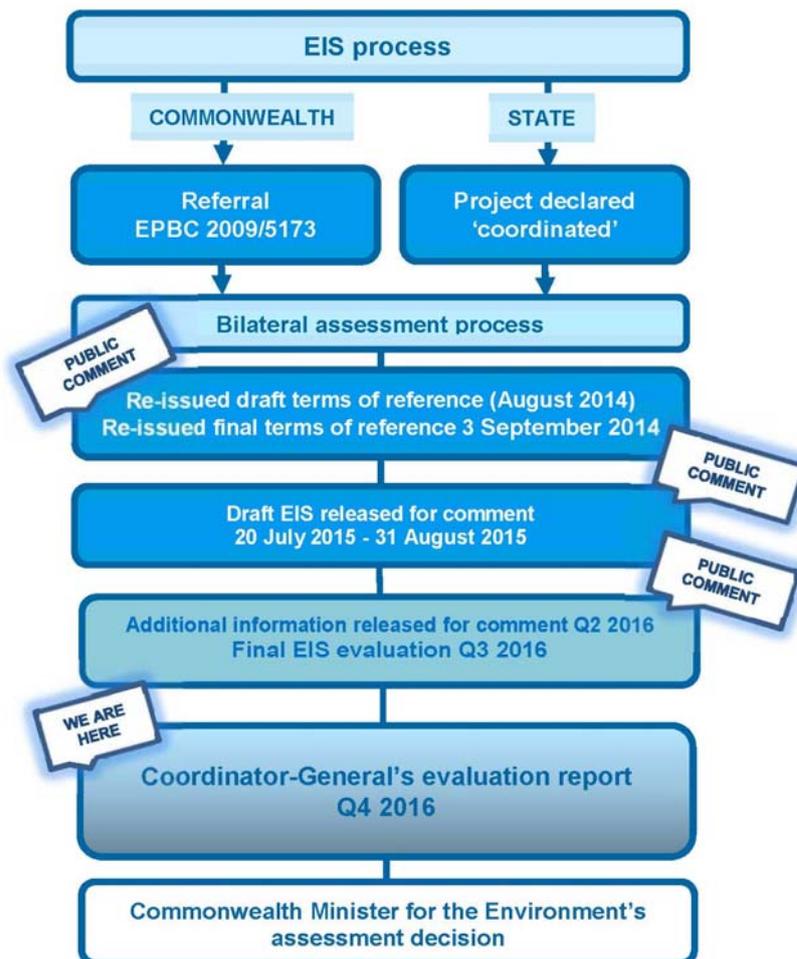
Gladstone Area Water Board and SunWater Limited are pleased to advise that the Queensland Coordinator-General has recommended the project proceeds subject to conditions and in accordance with recommendations made in the Coordinator-General's evaluation report.

The Coordinator-General's evaluation report is available at <http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/lower-fitzroy>.

The recommendation follows the Coordinator-General's evaluation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) and consideration of environmental impact assessment requirements under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Qld).

The Coordinator-Generals evaluation report will be provided to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, pursuant to section 36(2) of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2010.

The EIS process and current status is shown in the flowchart below.





Building Queensland and the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund (NWIDF)

Building Queensland is leading the development of a business case for the project in partnership with the Gladstone Area Water Board and SunWater Limited. The business case will receive funding (\$2 million) from the NWIDF (Commonwealth). The business case will build on the work previously performed by GAWB and SunWater and provide a detailed analysis of various aspects of the project to inform a decision on the future of the project. The detailed business case analysis will concentrate on the Rookwood Weir component.

The NWIDF is an initiative of the Commonwealth Government, administered through the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The fund aims to accelerate the development of water infrastructure projects which would stimulate regional economic activity.

The Commonwealth Government has also made an election commitment to provide conditional capital funding of \$130 million for the project, subject to the required environmental approvals and approval of the business case by the State and Commonwealth.

To facilitate and inform elements of the business case, cultural heritage and geotechnical investigations are being undertaken at the proposed Rookwood Weir, Riverslea Crossing, Foleyvale Crossing and key access roads. These investigations (amongst others) are expected to continue into the first half of 2017.

Further information regarding Building Queensland's business case for the project and the NWIDF can be found at <http://buildingqueensland.qld.gov.au/business-case/lower-fitzroy-river-infrastructure-project/> and <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/water/national/national-water-infrastructure-development-fund>, respectively.

Office of the Coordinator-General – EIS Community Engagement

The Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) has engaged Community Insights (from the Public Service Commission) to undertake a review of the current OCG community engagement process. The outputs of the review seek to inform and improve the process used by the OCG to engage with the community on coordinated projects.

Project stakeholders who participated in the community engagement process may be contacted to discuss their experiences with regard to consultation during the development of the project's EIS.

This review is being undertaken independently of the project. Please contact Emily Scarfe from the OCG on (07) 3452 7464 or emily.scarfe@coordinatorgeneral.qld.gov.au if you wish to take part or require additional information.

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