Leisa Prowse
CONSULTING

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group Meeting 3

June 2025

Contents

1 Introduction

The third meeting of the re-established Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Somerset Dam Improvement Project (SDIP) was held on Wednesday 26 June 2025. The meeting was held at the Somerset General Store between 4:00pm and 6:00pm.

1.1 Workshop purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- provide an update on recent communication, project and early works activities
- reignite the conversation about legacy projects.

Seqwater's presentation is included at Appendix A.

1.2 Attendees

Meeting 3 was attended by eight CRG members:

- Rosemarie Allan
- Bronwyn Davies
- Bebe Jecis
- David Kenneally
- Gary Love
- Tim Mason
- Don McConnell
- Dale Sinclair.

Apologies were received from Greg Mann and Vicki Sweedman.

The workshop was also attended by seven members of the project team, including:

- two Leisa Prowse Consulting (LPC) representatives
- five Seqwater representatives.

1.3 Welcome

Seqwater and LPC welcomed CRG members to the third CRG meeting for the SDIP project. The LPC facilitator briefly summarised key points from the Terms of Reference, including:

- Participation in the CRG is voluntary.
- The CRG is not a decision-making group and consensus is not required.
- The CRG aims to represent a diverse range of community viewpoints.
- Members are encouraged to represent their community or stakeholder group's views in the room.
- Members must not speak to the media on behalf of the group without Seqwater's authorisation.
- No proxies will be accepted.
- If you cannot attend a meeting, let Seqwater know that you are an apology.

The LPC facilitator briefly outlined key requirements for members of the group, which are to:

- treat each other with respect
- allow other people to be heard, listen respectfully, and do not speak over each other
- protect the privacy of other group members and treat them with respect when discussing the project or the CRG with others
- consider all relevant information during discussions

- consider other people's point of view
- act reasonably, with honesty and in good faith
- undertake agreed actions within the specified time
- attend all meetings and site tours or provide your apologies
- share information about the project with other community members and bring community feedback to CRG meetings.

Seqwater confirmed that no confidential information would be shared during this meeting.

As this was her first meeting since the CRG had reformed, Bronwyn Davies introduced herself to the group.

A member of the Seqwater team asked for permission to take photographs of the meeting for Seqwater social media channels. CRG members gave permission for their photos to be taken for this purpose.

2 Project update

Seqwater provided updates on early and enabling works, including:

- initial engineering activities
- geotechnical investigations
- physical hydraulic modelling
- facilities.

Seqwater showed a video of physical hydraulic modelling tests conducted at the University of New South Wales Water Research Laboratory. Seqwater's principal dam engineer explained that the videos represent water flow through Somerset Dam at a 'lower flow' design case (similar to 1974, 2011 flows) and a 'maximum flood' design case.

Seqwater then provided an update on the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID). The project team explained they are preparing the MID proposal and anticipate lodging it with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (the Department) in July or August 2025.

Seqwater communicated that there will be a formal community engagement period for the MID proposal. The LPC facilitator asked whether the project team could provide any more information on the timing of the MID community engagement.

The project team explained that they must lodge the MID proposal before they can start community engagement. Once the documents are lodged, the Department will initiate their own community consultation process, and Seqwater can then begin parallel community engagement activities.

Seqwater provided a 6-month lookahead for the project, which included:

- establishing site facilities and laydown sites
- ongoing geotechnical investigations
- undertaking an Interim Dam Safety Risk Assessment and key engineering activities to support design and approvals processes
- ongoing hydromechanical design and manufacturing activities and upcoming planned procurement for a hydromechanical works contractor
- progressing various approval documents and studies.

Seqwater communicated they will continue to engage with the community regarding upcoming works and additional community engagement will be undertaken once the MID has been lodged. Consideration of aboriginal cultural heritage and other land use engagement matters will continue in the meantime.

3 Communications update

Seqwater provided an update on recent community engagement activities, which included:

- the distribution of a digital and print newsletter in April 2025
- a site tour and meeting with the Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation.

Seqwater then provided an overview of upcoming community engagement activities, including:

- a site visit with the Acting Director-General of the Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers and the Seqwater Acting Chief Executive Officer in July 2025
- construction updates
- a newsletter in August 2025
- MID consultation after lodgement
- Brisbane open house activities in July 2025
- Kilcoy markets pop-up session — dates to be confirmed.

Seqwater asked CRG members whether they recall receiving either the paper or email newsletter in April 2025. CRG members communicated that they received the newsletter.

Seqwater explained that construction works are going to ramp-up in the coming months. Seqwater will continue to keep the community informed as works progress and will regularly review the most effective mechanisms for communicating project updates around Somerset Dam.

A member of the CRG asked whether they can share information from this meeting with the community, including their notes and the meeting slides. Seqwater advised that they had no issue with anything from this meeting being shared. The LPC facilitator indicated that if confidential information was being shared this would be communicated at the beginning of the meeting with a reminder communicated at meeting close.

4 Civil works update

Seqwater provided updates on civil works activities, including:

- Esk Kilcoy Road realignment
- left and right bank construction access roads
- contractor facilities
- Wivenhoe Somerset Road crossover
- laydown area.

Seqwater explained that these civil works are necessary to ensure that the area around the dam has the infrastructure needed to support construction in a way that has minimal impact on the community. Investigation and design works are underway, with construction anticipated to commence in 2026.

The group first looked at planning for the right (western) bank access road, which is planned to give access from Esk Kilcoy Road.

In response to a question about whether traffic from the quarry would use Esk Kilcoy Road and travel through the village to Wivenhoe Somerset Road, or cross over directly to the site, Seqwater advised they are investigating options to cross directly onto the site, minimising traffic through the village.

The group also looked at planning for access roads on the left (eastern) abutment, connected to Wivenhoe Somerset Road. One of the CRG members commented that it would be challenging to cut into the embankment as part of the new intersection development. Seqwater explained they are currently investigating optimal locations as part of the ongoing design process .

A CRG member asked to what extent Seqwater was responsible for the proposed road developments. Seqwater explained that, in relation to Esk Kilcoy Road and Wivenhoe Somerset Road, they are responsible for undertaking designs, which are then submitted to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) for review and approval. Seqwater also explained that road construction next to the water require other approvals, including waterway barrier design and

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act approvals. Proposed changes to roads and construction of new intersections or crossovers will be captured in the MID.

Another CRG member asked how far into the hill the Esk Kilcoy Road realignment would cut. Seqwater responded that they expect the realignment to cut 10–12 metres into the hill, but that this may change over the course of the ongoing design work. Some CRG members commented that removing the narrow section of existing road, where the realignment is proposed, will be well received by the community. The project team reiterated that the new road design is subject to ongoing approvals with TMR.

5 Quarry update

Seqwater provided an update on the pre-feasibility study for the original dam quarry to be used to support construction. This included:

- an update on the quarry pre-feasibility assessment and next steps
- the potential landform of the quarry, including rehabilitation after project completion
- typical quarry operations
- the on-site concrete batching plant
- how Seqwater expects this quarry to operate if it is used and how this might impact the community.

The facilitator asked the project team to further explain some of the technical terms presented. The project team explained that the dam is a monolithic structure composed of large concrete blocks that work together. They further explained that the concrete used to construct these blocks interact, which contributes to the dam's efficiency. The project team explained the material from the existing quarry was used during the construction of the original dam structure. A key benefit of using the material from this quarry, assuming there is enough quantity of good quality, is that it is of a similar material to the concrete used for the original construction. This may support improved efficiency during construction and an improved final outcome.

Additionally, using materials close to the project location will minimise truck haulage by reducing the need to source materials from other quarries in South East Queensland. However, the project team is investigating alternative quarry options in the event the local quarry is deemed not feasible to use for the project. Part of this process involves creating different concrete mixes from materials sourced at other quarries to determine the most suitable mix types for the project.

As part of the laydown area considerations at the Wivenhoe Somerset Road laydown area, a concrete batching plant is planned to be developed. If the local quarry materials are feasible to use for the project, the project team will be able to take the materials straight to the batching plant for use.

A CRG member asked whether the project team is hopeful the quarry will supply the right quantity and quality of material for the concrete. Seqwater responded that the quantity is there and accessible using modern methods and standards of extraction. Testing has demonstrated that the right quality of the material is also present. However, this needs to be further tested in the feasibility study.

In response to a CRG question about what type of trucks will use local roads, the project team explained that the majority of trucks would travel to site via Wivenhoe Somerset Road, and remain on-site, primarily using those roads specifically built for the dam construction. They explained that should the quarry feasibility study be successful, they can minimise most traffic on local roads and throughout Somerset Dam village. Where materials are sourced more broadly and for general site access, trucks will still be expected to primarily enter via Wivenhoe Somerset Road.

6 Legacy projects

Seqwater provided an overview of how the list of potential legacy projects was developed by the original CRG members during meetings held in 2020. The project team reminded the CRG that 12 potential projects were shortlisted, including:

1. Upgrades to the dam viewing area on Esk Kilcoy Road.
2. Construction of a new Rural Fire Service shed in Somerset Dam village.
3. New pedestrian paths in Somerset Dam Village, including a safe crossing on Esk Kilcoy Road.
4. Development of a new recreation trail between Somerset Dam village and The Spit.
5. Establishment of a public display of heritage-related objects from the dam wall such as old gates and winches.
6. Restoration of the old swimming hole near the village, with addition of a kayak launch point on the Stanley River.
7. Upgrades to the day area (playground) in Somerset Dam village, including new public toilets.
8. Upgrades to facilities at The Spit.
9. Relocation of the memorial to workers who died during construction of the dam.
10. Development of a community arts and heritage centre in Somerset Dam village using one of Seqwater's old houses.
11. Redevelopment of the Caboonbah Homestead site and a new boat ramp.
12. Establishment of a connection from the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail to Somerset Dam using the old bullock stock route.

The project team also addressed the former list developed by Somerset Regional Council and submitted to Seqwater back in 2020. Seqwater acknowledged these were not included in the formalised list but wanted to raise them with the group. The further six projects, bring the list up to a total of 18 potential projects, include:

13. Coronation Hall car park formalisation.
14. Kerb and channel, drainage and bitumen infill sealing along King Street, George Street and Albert Street around Plumb Park.
15. Footpath from Coronation Hall to the General Store and playground.
16. New shelter, picnic table and electric BBQ at Plumb Park.
17. Tennis court resurfacing.
18. Somerset Dam lookout formalisation.

The project team confirmed they had also spoken to Somerset Regional Council about the list, who confirmed items 14 and 17 have since been completed by council.

The project team also explained that Seqwater had recently contracted a consultant to develop an organisation-wide community benefits framework. This framework is likely to provide the project team with high level advice on how to deliver community benefit projects that align with Seqwater's strategic goals, values and community impact protocols. However, the project team emphasised that the Somerset Dam village community's voice would help to drive legacy project discussions, priorities and outcomes.

6.1 Legacy project group activity 1

The first workshop activity of the meeting involved CRG members exploring the list of 18 potential legacy projects. For this activity, the CRG was split into two groups of 4 CRG members each, and provided with large sticky notes and pens to capture their ideas about the legacy projects. Each group was asked to determine if there were any projects that should be removed from the list of potential legacy projects, and to add any projects that were missing indicating why they were being added to the list.

6.1.1 *Group 1 feedback*

Group 1 identified the following:

- Additions to the list
  - Upgrade Somerset Park with exercise equipment.
  - Provide a river walk from Somerset Park to the dam wall or the viewing area.
  - Provide tennis court lights.
  - Connect the houses and businesses in the village to a sewer system.
  - Create a mural in the village.
- Removals from the list
  - Remove the Somerset Dam to Brisbane Valley Rail Trail connection option.
  - Remove tennis court resurfacing option.

Group 1 noted that while they liked the community arts centre idea, they were uncertain about who would staff it considering the transient nature of the Somerset Village population. They also noted a need for further clarification on where the walkway in Somerset Dam village would begin.

6.1.2 *Group 2 feedback*

Group 2 identified the following:

- Additions to the list
  - Walking trail across the wall and up Little Brisbane Mountain and/or the state land behind the village (the group raised concern about maintenance despite identifying this project).
- Removals from the list
  - Remove upgrades to The Spit facilities.
  - Remove the development of a community arts and heritage centre in Somerset Dam village using one of Seqwater's old houses.
  - Remove redevelopment of the Caboonbah Homestead site and a new boat ramp.
  - Remove the Somerset Dam to Brisbane Valley Rail Trail connection option.

Group 2 also made the following comments on the following potential projects:

- Projects 1 and 18 should be combined and could include linkage to other developed walking trails across the dam and up the mountain idea (see Group 2 Additions as above).
- Projects 3,13, 14, 15 and 17 should not be delivered as they are the responsibility of Somerset Regional Council.
- Project 2 should be moved to the laydown area as there is not enough room on the current site.
- Projects 4, 5 and 6 are all good as they balance value for money with low maintenance commitments.
- Project 7 was good but feel the toilet upgrades are no longer needed as the toilets at the hall have been made permanent and 24/7 recently. Suggested other upgrades such as BBQs at Somerset Park.
- Project 9 is good – the memorial should be moved to the viewing area.

6.1.3 *Consolidated feedback*

Following the meeting the LPC facilitation team combined the feedback from both small groups to create the following list to inform discussion at future CRG meetings.

Potential legacy projects — revised list

1. Upgrade the dam viewing areas on Esk Kilcoy Road and Somerset Dam at the dam wall.

Potentially connect the dam viewing areas to the suggested walking trail across the wall and up the mountain (i.e. number 11).

Potentially relocate the memorial to workers who died during the construction of the dam (i.e. number 12) to the upgraded dam viewing area.

2. Construction of a new Rural Fire Service shed in Somerset Dam village or at the laydown area site along Esk Kilcoy Road.
3. Development of a new recreation trail between Somerset Dam village and The Spit.
4. Establishment of a public display of heritage-related objects from the dam wall such as old gates and winches.
5. Restoration of the old swimming hole near the village, with addition of a kayak launch point on the Stanley River.
6. Upgrades to the day area (Somerset Park) in Somerset Dam village including exercise equipment and facilities such as BBQs.
7. Provide a river walk from Somerset Park to the dam wall or the viewing area.
8. Provide tennis court lights.
9. Connect the houses and businesses in the village to a sewer system.
10. Create a mural in the village.
11. Create a walking trail across the wall and up Little Brisbane Mountain.
12. Relocation of the memorial to workers who died during construction of the dam to the dam viewing area.
13. Development of a community arts and heritage centre in Somerset Dam village using one of Seqwater's old houses.

    Please note, one group liked the idea but questioned how it would be staffed, while the other group suggested removing this idea.
14. New pedestrian paths in Somerset Dam Village, including a safe crossing on Esk Kilcoy Road.
15. Coronation Hall car park formalisation.
16. Footpath from Coronation Hall to the General Store and playground.

Please note numbers 3, 4, 5 were perceived by one group to be low maintenance, value for money options.

Please note numbers 14, 15 and 16 were perceived by one group to be Somerset Regional Council's responsibility.

Potential legacy projects — recommended to be removed

1. New public toilets.
2. Upgrades to facilities at The Spit.
3. Redevelopment of the Caboonbah Homestead site and a new boat ramp.
4. Establishment of a connection from the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail to Somerset Dam using the old bullock stock route.

6.2 Legacy project group activity 2

The second workshop activity involved exploring some of the key values CRG members thought that Seqwater needs to consider when reviewing the legacy project selection. Remaining in their groups of 4, CRG members were provided with smaller sticky notes and asked to find key words that reflected their values, writing one idea on each sticky note.

6.2.1 *Group 1 feedback*

Group 1 identified the following values:

- costs

- no costs spared
- lasting
- viability
- maintenance
- whole of life costs
- majority
- community mindedness
- tourism
- history — particularly at viewing area.

6.2.2 *Group 2 feedback*

Group 2 identified the following values:

- durable
- long term sustainability
- core values – Seqwater and local community
- harmony of village life
- natural beauty — tourism
- village amenity — vista
- capacity for events
- education focus
- dam wall focus.

6.2.3 *Consolidated feedback*

Following completion of the small group activity, the LPC facilitator had intended to have a group discussion to collectively theme identified values. However, due to time constraints, this was unable to be completed. The facilitator asked the CRG whether they would be comfortable with the LPC team conducting a thematic analysis to be communicated in the meeting notes and tested at the next CRG meeting.

The CRG were comfortable with this approach, and the LPC team has summarised the values according to the following themes:

- **Appropriate cost**: the legacy project should receive proper investment, and cost should not be the biggest determinant of project selection.
- **Durable and sustainable**: the legacy project should be of a quality that will ensure its long-term durability and sustainability.
- **Viable**: the long-term viability of the project, including ongoing maintenance and costs, needs to be tailored to the capacity of the local community and Council.
- **Local benefit**: the legacy project should benefit the Somerset Dam village community and should harmonise, rather than cause tension, among residents and visitors.
- **Activation**: the legacy project should promote economic development in the area by attracting tourists.
- **Leverage natural beauty**: the legacy project should leverage the natural beauty of the area to improve amenity in and around the dam and the village.
- **Focus on the dam**: the legacy project should highlight the dam's unique heritage and its on-going role in the life of the community.

7 Meeting close

To close-out the meeting, the LPC facilitator asked CRG members to share their key takeaways from Meeting 3. These takeaways were:

- update on project — everything is on track
- discussed potential legacy projects and the need to keep to Seqwater's core business and values and focus on the dam
- works are starting — progress will soon be visible
- local quarry looks like a possible option — this will keep construction traffic out of the village
- remedial works on part of Esk Kilcoy Road.

The key takeaway discussion prompted one CRG member to indicate that they had asked the community for ideas about legacy projects before the meeting, but had received little response. The CRG member suggested that now the works will be visible, there is likely be more interest in potential legacy projects.

The CRG agreed to discuss potential legacy projects with their networks and the broader community in preparation for the next meeting.

Seqwater advised the CRG that if they were aware of local contractors interested in supplying for the construction works, they could direct them to the contractor registration form on the Seqwater webpage.

Seqwater advised the topic of the next meeting would be communicated to the CRG prior to the next meeting.

CRG members indicated that that they would be happy for the next meeting to be on a Wednesday in October. No date was suggested for the next meeting, with Seqwater advising that they would provide some options in the near future.

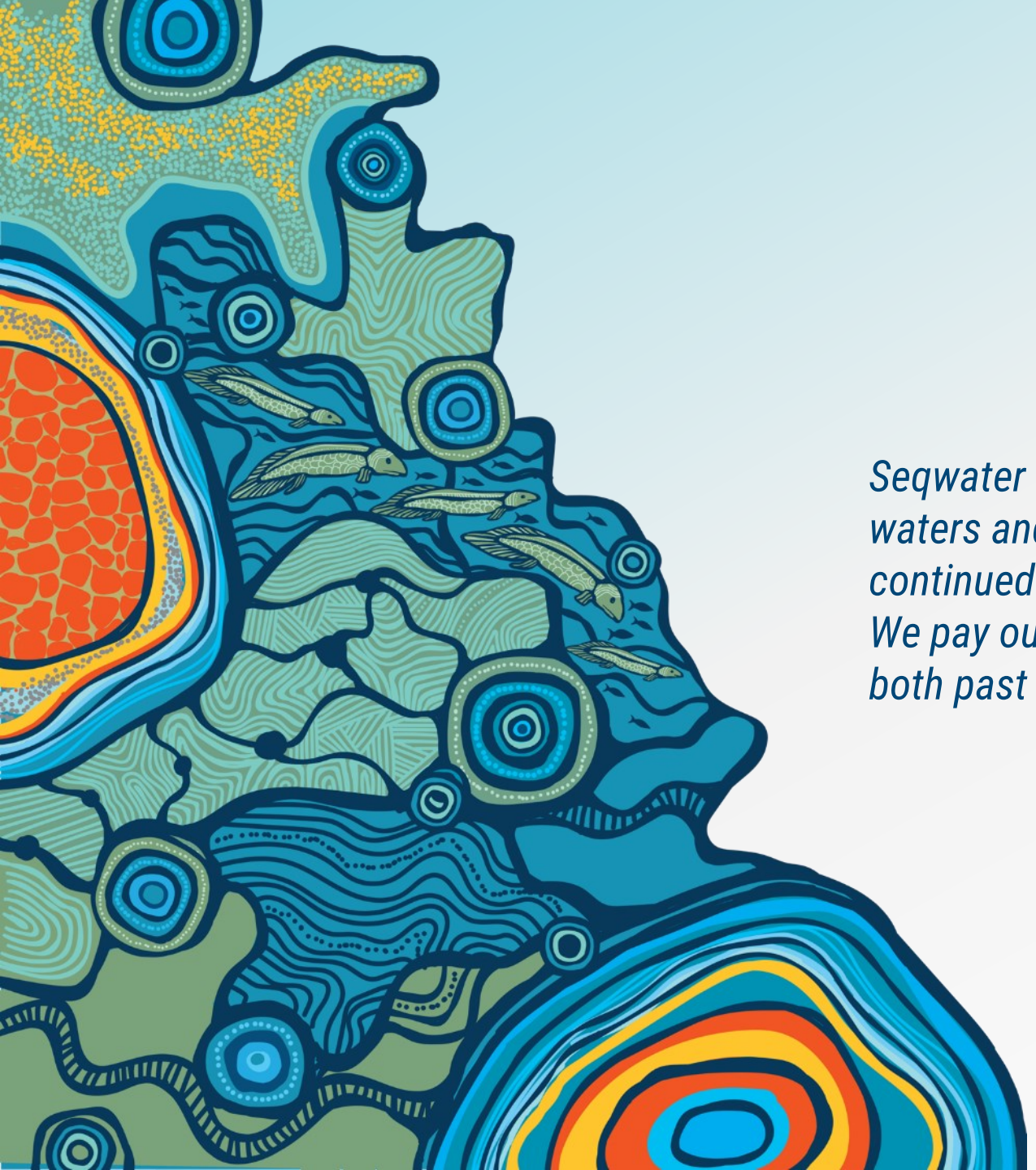
Appendix A: Presentation

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group
Meeting 3

Wednesday 25 June 2025

seqwater
WATER FOR LIFE



Seqwater acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these waters and surrounding lands and recognises their continued connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

Agenda

Item	Details
Outstanding actions	• Remaining photo consent forms • Member updates
Project update	
Communications update	
Quarry update	• Prefeasibility outcome
Legacy discussion	• Existing shortlist • Prioritisation • Criteria
Conclusion	

Outstanding actions

Project update

Early Works update

- **Initial engineering activities progressing well:**
  - Dam Engineering Services Provider commenced
  - Civil works design (refer presentation later)
  - Updates to hydrology including climate change considerations
  - Hydromechanical temporary works including radial gate removal lifting frame
- **Geotechnical drilling:**
  - 20% / 39 boreholes complete to date
  - Four drill rigs currently on site, two working in the dam galleries completing drainage
  - Barge drilling downstream planned July/August 2025 (subject to weather)
- **Physical Hydraulic Modelling:** refer to next presentation
- **Facilities:**
  - Somerset village houses refurbishment procurement process to be broadened to include wider market
  - First stage of Contractor / laydown facilities commencing

PHM Tests

Run 16.03

Condition:

- Low Flow (spillway and sluice flows)

Configuration:

- SL4X – CB 5m – FB 1x5 m @ 1.5m - SCB 30m – ES 5m - Sluice Open – TW 70.5 AHD

Run 07.1

Condition:

- Peak Flood

Configuration:

- SL4X – CB 5m – SCB 30m – ES 5m - Sluice Open – TW 80.2 AHD

Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID)

- **Status:** Team is continuing to prepare the MID report for submission
- **Next step:** Lodgement to Department
- **Timing:** July/August 2025
- **Upcoming activities:** Community consultation period (timing to be confirmed)

Queensland Government | State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

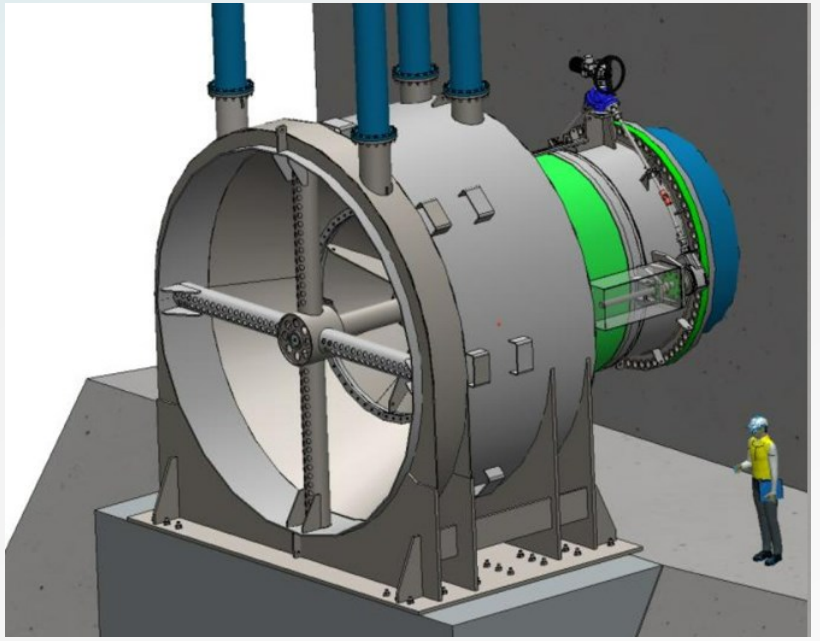
6-Month Lookahead

Site Works / Facilities:

- Establishment of site facilities and laydown sites to support expansion of site activities.
- Continuation of Geotechnical investigations
- Design and installation of Interim Drainage Curtain.

DESP / Design Key Activities:

- Complete engineering to support the Detailed Business Case and beyond.
- Commence engineering and associated studies to underpin waterway barrier approvals process



Isometric View of Installed Submerged Fixed Cone Valve (Source: AVK / Orbinox)

Hydromechanical Activities:

- Continue engagement with Gate Manufacturer, Dams Engineering Services Partner, temporary works designer
- Progress to market to secure Hydromechanical Works contractor

Approvals

- Lodge MID and EPBC documents
- Continuation of heritage, offsets, waterway barrier, land use/property tenure matters

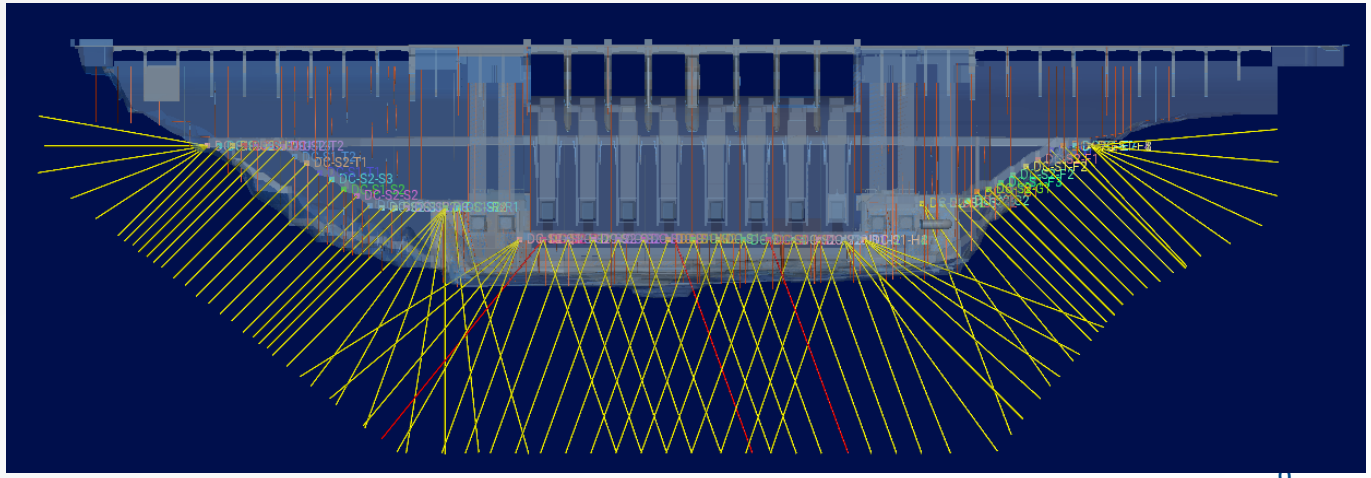


Illustration of trial drain holes completed (red) and concept of full scope (yellow)

Communications update

Community engagement

Recent

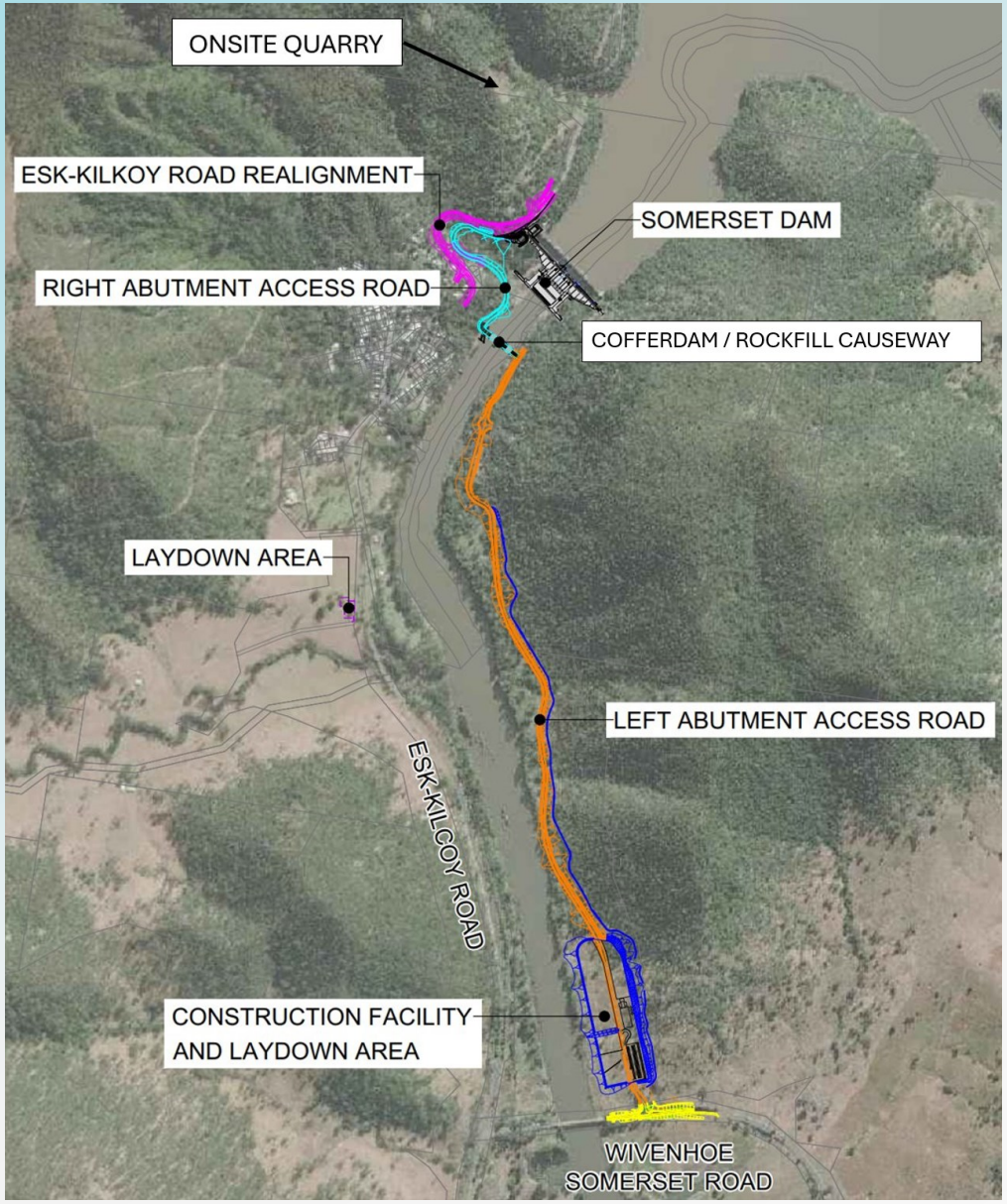
- April newsletter – print and email
- Jinibara People Aboriginal Corporation – site tour and meeting

Upcoming

- DLGWV site visit 3 July
- Construction updates – preferred distribution method
- August newsletter
- Ministerial Infrastructure Designation consultation (post-lodgement)
- Brisbane Open House - July
- Kilcoy markets pop up session – date TBC

Civil works update

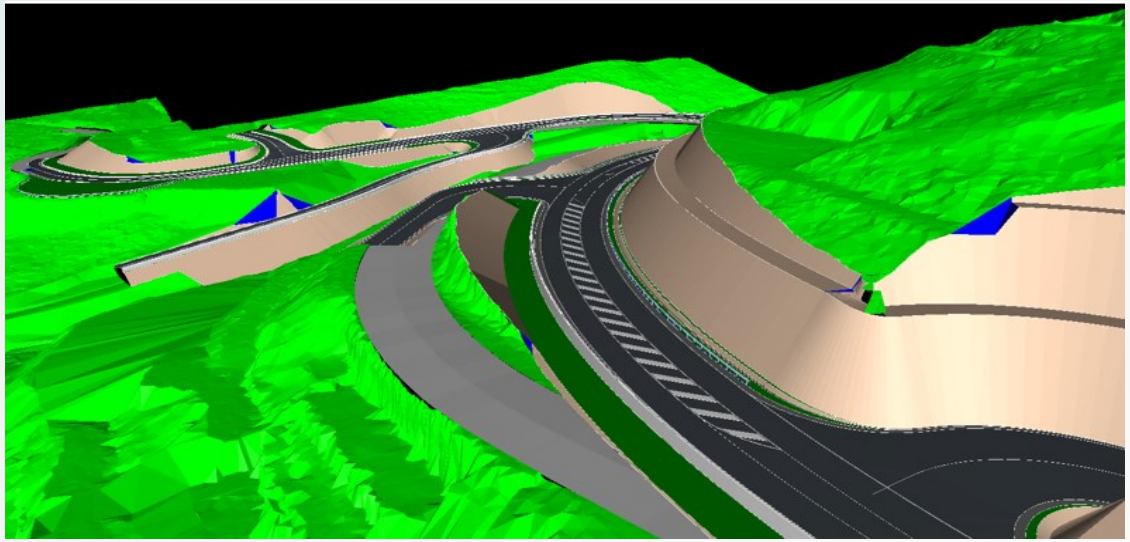
Early and Enabling Works – Civil Scope



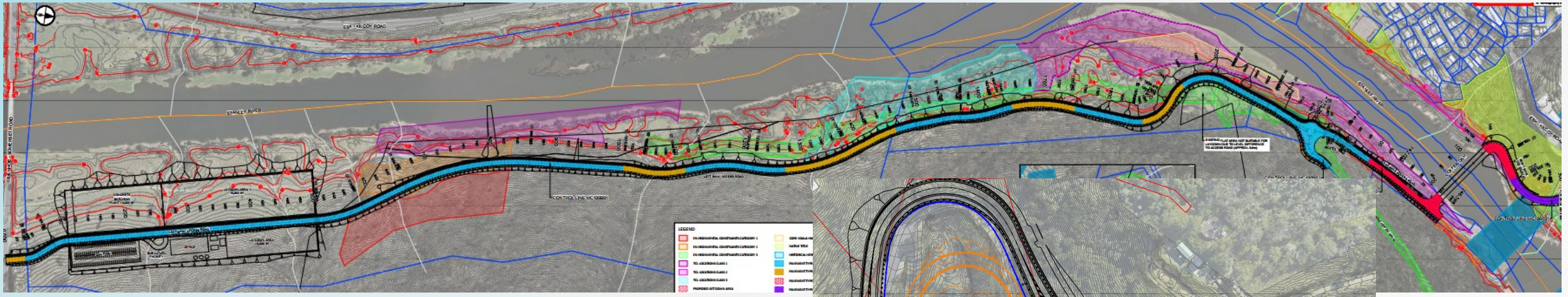
- Currently progressing detailed design (Jan 2025 – mid 2026)
- Construction phase anticipated commencement date late 2026

Esk-Kilcoy Road Realignment

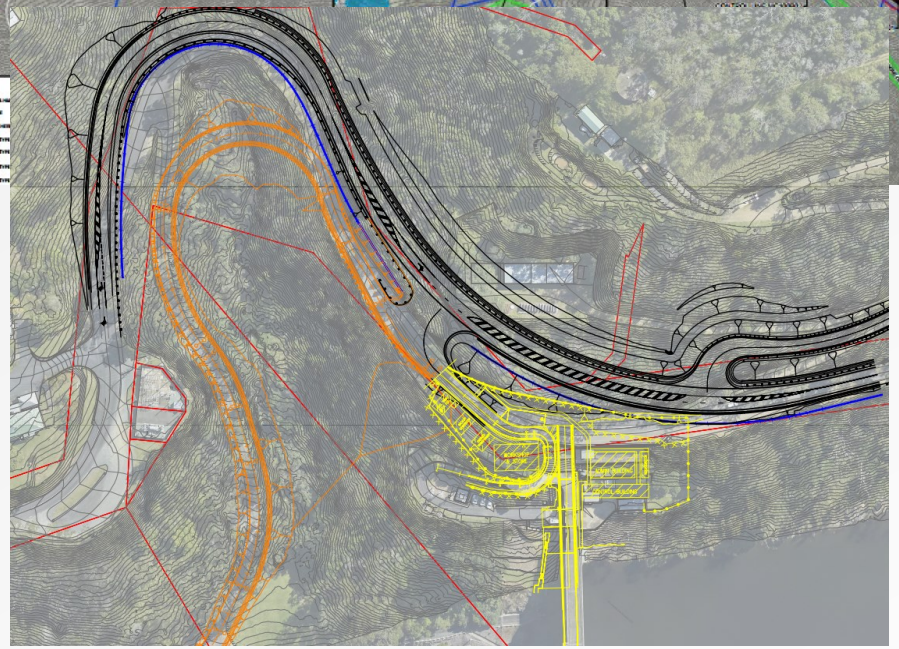
- Existing road is within the cross-valley alignment of the proposed upgraded monoliths and so will have to be realigned westward



Left and Right Bank Construction Access Roads and Contractor Facilities Civil Works



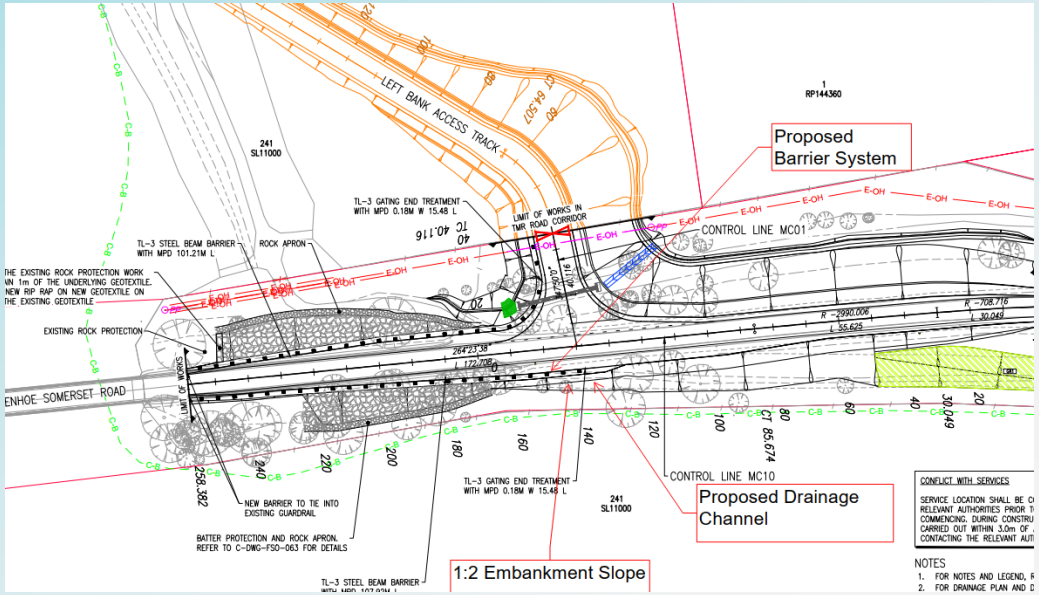
Left Bank Access Road



Right Bank Access Road

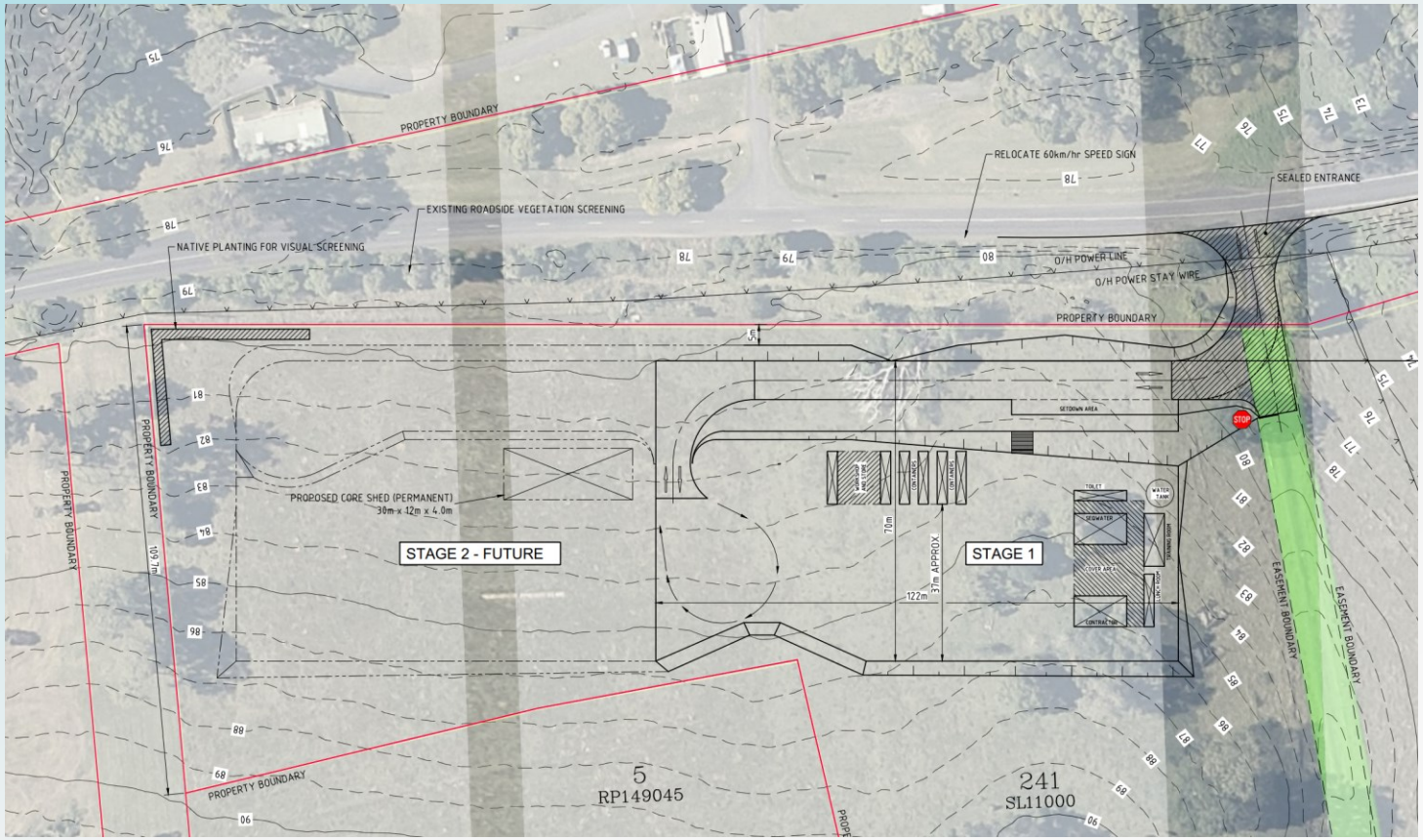
- Access roads will facilitate construction traffic during dam construction
- Left bank main access point to site
- Long term intent of the access roads will primarily be for Seqwater operational use only
- Will act as haul roads during dam construction potentially carting material from quarry to batch plant
- Contractor facilities – site compound and laydown area for main dam contractor

Wivenhoe Somerset Road Crossover



- Right in right out turn for west bound traffic
- Left in left out turn for east bound traffic
- Posted speed limit to remain at 100kph

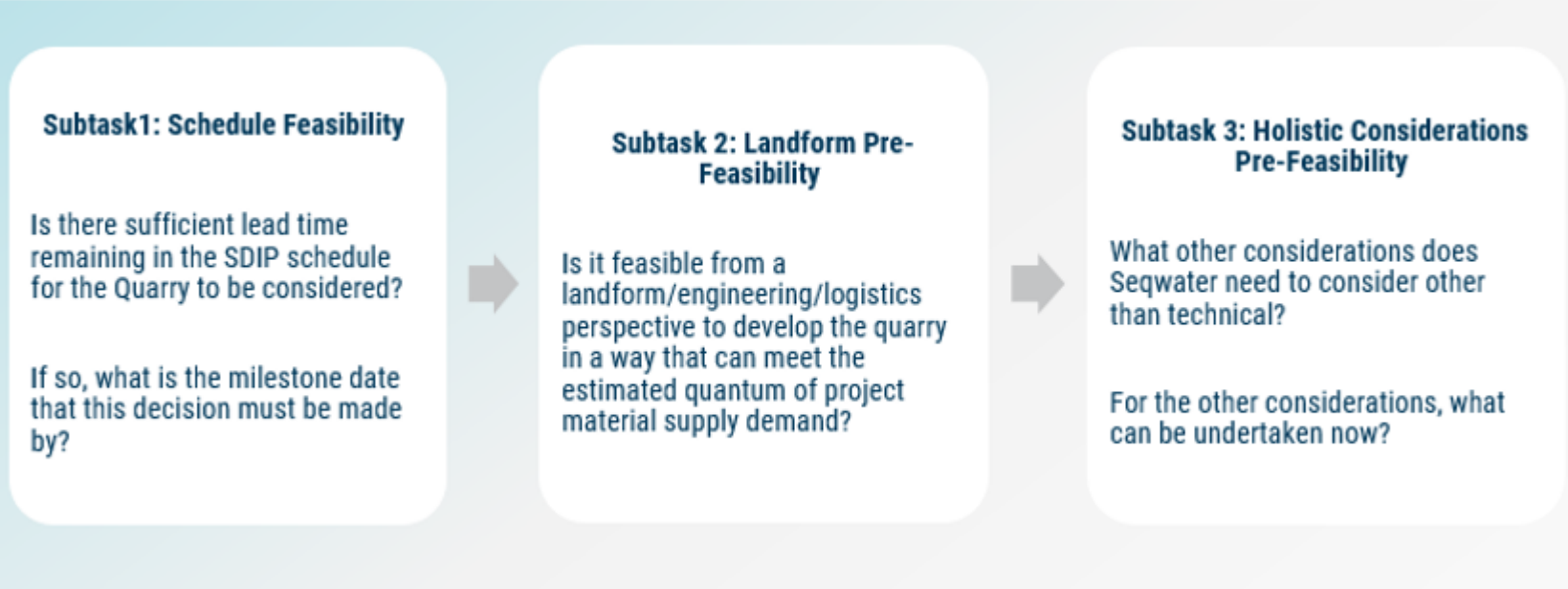
Laydown Area (concept sketch)



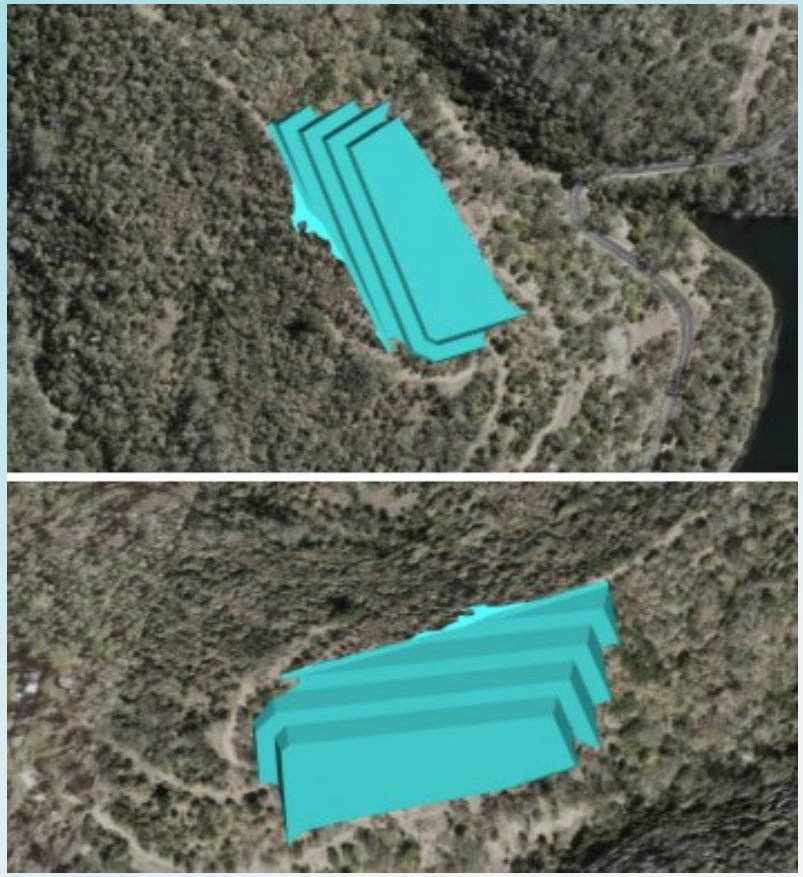
- Stage 1 immediate use for Geotechnical investigations contractor site compound
- Stage 1 – proposed civil works laydown (permanent and construction access roads
- Stage 2 – proposed hydromechanical works laydown area
- Stage 1 & 2 – Potential use for main dam upgrade works

Quarry update

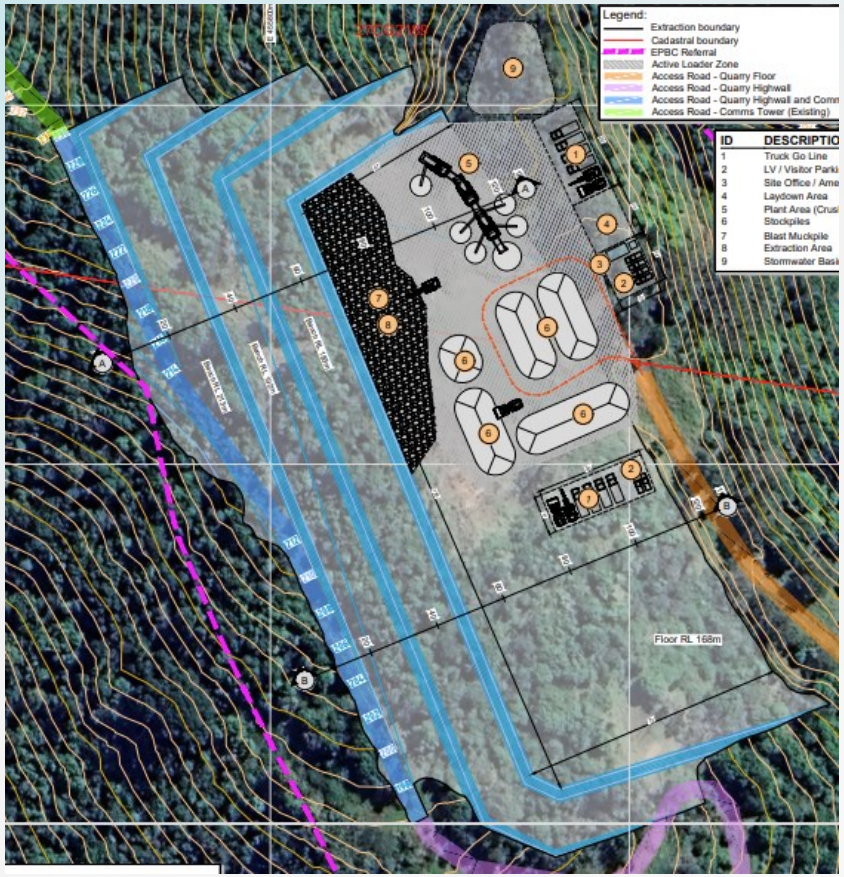
Onsite Quarry Prefeasibility Assessment



Quarry (final landform)



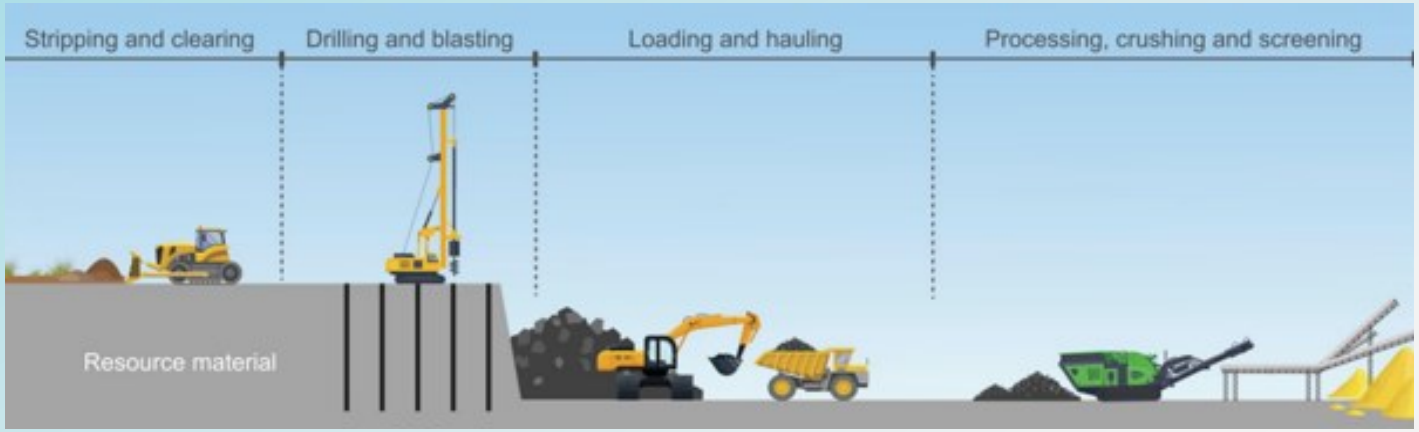
Quarry Indicative final landform (3D Model)



Onsite Quarry (indicative final landform)

Rehabilitation of final landform may include vegetation of final benches to improve visual amenity and ecological outcomes

Typical Quarry Operations



Material extraction process (indicative)

Blast preparation (bench development prep)

Typical mobile crushing plant

Typical mobile screening plant

Onsite Quarry – FAQ's

- Approx 200-300,000m3 of rock required for main dam
- Blasting frequency (varies) - typically once every 5-15 weeks but more frequent during initial stages
- Blasting would not normally occur over consecutive days and would normally occur once on one day.

- **What will it sound or feel like?**
  - Conditions imposed on quarries under an Environmental Authority and the Australian Standard limit blasting to 5mm/s at the nearest sensitive receptor e.g. residential dwelling.
    - *In perspective, slamming a door shut can produce vibrations of 12mm/s*
  - Blasts are normally of short duration (1-3 Seconds)
  - Two types of vibration typically occur
    - ground vibration
    - over pressure (air-borne vibration in form of waves)

- **What it sounds like**
  - Will depend on proximity to blast
  - normally hear an initial noise followed by short rumblings
  - Siren onsite, required for 'all clear' before blast – may be heard locally

Quarry continued

- Control measures
  - Angle of blast
  - Blast mats
  - Blast area exclusion zones implemented by shotfirer prior to blasting
  - Blast monitoring using ground and air vibration equipment
  - Vibration exceedances monitored reported to regulatory authority
  - Noise and dust – air quality monitoring and noise restriction can be implemented

- Can it damage my property?
  - Blast operation have prescribed vibration limits well below those that could cause structural or cosmetic damage

LIVING NEAR A QUARRY

BLASTING MANAGEMENT

Quarries play an important role in our day-to-day lives. They provide the stone, sand and gravel that's used to build our roads, hospitals, schools and our homes.

To ensure this important infrastructure remains affordable, it's important these natural materials are sourced locally – close to where they are used. That's why you find quarries operating in and around the communities that use their products. For the most part, you wouldn't know they are there.

The quarrying industry operates to strict conditions and is committed to minimising the impact of its operations on local communities and environments. But if you live close to a hard rock quarry, you may notice occasional noise or vibration arising from quarrying activities.

The following information will help to explain why this occurs, and what quarry managers and government regulators do to minimise any impact on those living nearby.

HOW IS ROCK EXTRACTED IN A QUARRY?

There are a number of ways, but a common and effective method is controlled blasting.

The factors that determine whether blasting is necessary are the hardness of the rock, the amount of weathering and the presence of weaknesses in the rock structure.

Blasting is a very precise and carefully planned operation that involves drilling into the rock in a specified pattern and placing explosives in the holes. The explosives are then detonated in a precise sequence, designed to maximise the efficiency of rock breakage while minimising noise, vibration and dust.

One of the advantages of blasting is that it reduces the need to operate large, heavy equipment to extract the rock, which in turn reduces noise and greenhouse gas emissions.

WILL I HEAR OR FEEL A BLAST?

Depending on how close you live to the quarry, you may notice some slight vibration or noise associated with blasting. When blasting is undertaken at a quarry, two types of vibration occur - ground vibration and overpressure. Ground vibration radiates away from the blast site with the effect reducing as the distance from the site increases. Overpressure is an airborne vibration in the form of airwaves, and can cause a vibration response in structures such as residences. While it can be felt, it's not always heard. Airborne waves tend to travel slower in the atmosphere and therefore arrive later than ground vibration.

It's actually in the best interests of quarry management to reduce both these types of vibrations because they substantially decrease the efficiency and economy of the blasting operation. However, even the best designed and executed blasts will generate some vibration.

Your individual response to a blast will depend largely on the vibration's magnification, duration and frequency. However, because the vibration magnitude varies from site to site, no common threshold exists. Your age, health, and to a large extent, previous exposure to similar blasts can be influencing factors, as can the activity you're performing at the time of the blast, for example, a person walking is less likely to feel vibrations when compared to a person sitting still.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS ARE IN PLACE DURING BLASTING?

Strict safety regulations apply with handling explosives. In addition, quarries implement blast impact abatement measures to protect neighbouring homes, buildings and public places.

Blasts are monitored at different locations with sensitive ground and air vibration equipment to ensure they remain within regulations. All blasts are monitored and exceedances must be reported to the relevant regulatory authority by the quarry operator.

CAN IT DAMAGE MY PROPERTY?

Blasting operations have prescribed limits stipulated by the relevant regulatory authority that are well below vibration levels that could cause structural or cosmetic damage. The limits stipulated in quarry licence conditions are well below the levels that could cause damage.

These limitations are applied at any point within the grounds of noise sensitive locations, such as residences or schools or hospitals.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER IMPACTS I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

Apart from vibration, the energy used in blasting to move and break rocks may also result in some noise and dust. The further you are away from the quarry, the less you will notice these impacts. A quarry's strict operating conditions require that every action be taken to reduce these impacts to safe levels.

IS THERE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO IF I HAVE FURTHER CONCERNS?

Your local quarry will have community engagement strategies that include consultation with local residents. This provides a mechanism to raise any concerns you might have and at the same time allow the quarry manager to explain the operation in detail and provide assurances that its operations are safe and proper. You can find out more by contacting your local quarry.

CEMENT CONCRETE & AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA

Legacy projects

Context

History

- Legacy projects first raised in original CRG meetings:
  - Meeting 2 – initial ideas brainstorm
  - Meeting 6 – legacy project prioritisation
- Ideas also developed by Somerset Regional Council
- Shortlist of 12 ideas announced in August 2020.

[discuss Seqwater Community Benefits Framework development]

Existing shortlist

1. Upgrades to the dam viewing area on Esk-Kilcoy Road.
2. Construction of a new Rural Fire Service shed in Somerset Dam village.
3. New pedestrian paths in Somerset Dam village, including a safe crossing of Esk-Kilcoy Road.
4. Development of a new recreation trail between Somerset Dam village and The Spit.
5. Establishment of a public display of heritage-related objects from the dam wall such as old gates and winches.
6. Restoration of the old swimming hole near the village, with addition of a kayak launch point on the Stanley River.
7. Upgrades to the day use area (playground) in Somerset Dam village, including new public toilets.
8. Upgrades to facilities at The Spit.
9. Relocation of the memorial to workers who died during construction of the dam.
10. Development of a community arts and heritage centre in Somerset Dam village using one of Seqwater's old houses.
11. Redevelopment of the Caboonbah Homestead site and a new boat ramp.
12. Establishment of a connection from the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail to Somerset Dam using the old bullock trail stock route.

Previous suggestions from Somerset Regional Council

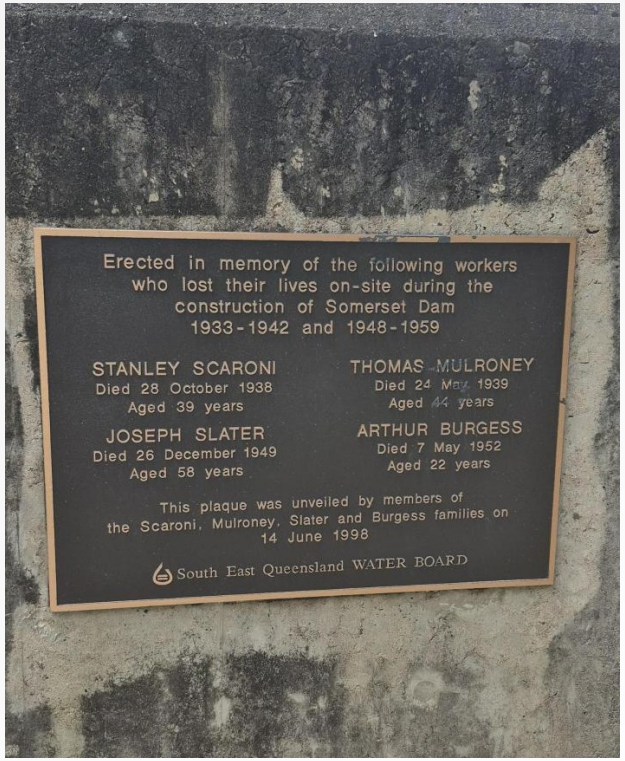
Funding for:

1. Coronation Hall car park formalisation.
2. Kerb and channel, drainage and bitumen infill sealing along King Street, George Street and Albert Street around Plumb Park.
3. Footpath from Coronation Hall to the General Store/playground.
4. New shelter, picnic table and electric BBQ at Plumb Park.
5. Tennis court resurfacing.
6. Somerset Dam lookout formalisation.

Context

Today

- Seqwater developing company-wide Community Benefits Framework
  - Contractor engaged – first preliminary version expected July
- Legacy projects to be more strategically selected.
- Considerations of:
  - Demonstrated link to project
  - Deliverability / feasibility
  - Cost
  - Operational requirements post construction
  - Maintainability
  - Community values/outcomes – *example considerations below*
    - *Local relevance and benefit*
    - *Heritage values of the area, both historic and Aboriginal*
    - *Economic development*
    - *Local environment enhancement*
    - *Promotes well being*



Is there anything missing? Why?

1. Upgrades to the dam viewing area on Esk-Kilcoy Road.
2. Construction of a new Rural Fire Service shed in Somerset Dam village.
3. New pedestrian paths in Somerset Dam village, including a safe crossing of Esk-Kilcoy Road.
4. Development of a new recreation trail between Somerset Dam village and The Spit.
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15. Footpath from Coronation Hall to the General Store/playground.
16. New shelter, picnic table and electric BBQ at Plumb Park.
17. Tennis court resurfacing.
18. Somerset Dam lookout formalisation.

Criteria ideas

In your small groups brainstorm the potential criteria that Seqwater could use to shortlist legacy projects.

Think about:

- What are the needs of the community that these projects could address?
- What limits does Seqwater need to consider (e.g., cost, environmental impact etc.)?
- What do legacy projects need to achieve?

Find one or two key words to describe your ideas.

Write these key words on a post-it note. One idea to a post-it note.

Key takeaways

Next meeting

Wednesday 15 October 2025

Thank you

seqwater
WATER FOR LIFE