Minutes

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group – Meeting 8

Date and Time	Monday 24 August 2026 – 4:00pm-5:30pm
Location	Meeting: Somerset Dam General Store meeting room, 2 Guldbrandsen Street
Seqwater Attendees	• Ed Ebert, Project Director, Somerset Dam Improvement Project • Anna Hams, Principal Dam Engineer, Technical Lead, Somerset Dam Improvement Project • John Porter, Principal Community Engagement Advisor, Somerset Dam Improvement Project
Facilitator Attendees	• N/A
Meeting purpose	This will be the eighth meeting with the Somerset Dam Improvement Project Community Reference Group (CRG). This meeting was an Seqwater facilitated meeting to check in with members and provide an update for the last quarter as well as to seek feedback as to areas where Seqwater can improve in its interaction with the community and CRG.

Minutes

Item	Description	Notes
1.	Welcome & refreshments	Nil.
2.	Communications update	Nil questions fielded.
3.	Project update	Feedback themes included: • Traffic impacts locally due to ongoing road works (community fatigue and poor driver behaviour). • Schedule commitments made and not met, does Seqwater have a revised baseline schedule? • Decision transparency could be improved, especially in relation to key project scope items, timing of works and ongoing legacy project option reviews. Project team referred the group members to following group reflection exercise.

Minutes

Item	Description	Notes
4.	Group reflection exercise (5 key questions)	Group reflection exercise (5 key questions) **1. What is the SDIP team doing to monitor local traffic impacts, road damage and contractor behaviour, including scheduled breaks?** The project has previously advised that it is working with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Somerset Regional Council on road and traffic matters. Previous CRG meetings have identified construction traffic as a project impact requiring ongoing management. Seqwater is currently liaising with active contractors onsite to address any traffic impact, road damage and contractor compliance issues, through the delivery of a series of briefings with head contractor staff at weekly toolbox talks and audits of quality assurance documentation. Local residents are encouraged to report non-compliance with road rules or traffic offenses to local authorities when witnessed. **2. Can Seqwater and the SDIP project team better reflect local investment to date as a result of the project?** In addition to progressing important early and enabling works, SDIP is creating broader value by directing the project's contractor expenditure back into local and neighbouring communities. This includes engaging local and regional suppliers, subcontractors and service providers across areas such as labour, plant, materials and accommodation, as well as supporting community initiatives. Feedback from local businesses and community members has also been positive about the project workforce's respectful presence and efforts to minimise disruption. Recent contracts delivered onsite (e.g. FKG intersection works contract) have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the Somerset region, and neighbouring areas. This investment will continue to increase as works ramp up to support the main dam upgrade. We now encourage all interested local contractors and suppliers to register through our Zycus Supplier Network portal (ZSN) as the primary interface to interact with Seqwater for all source to contract activities. Registering on the ZSN portal is the first step toward exploring opportunities with Seqwater and our contractors. Whether you're offering goods, services, or specialised expertise, we welcome your interest and invite you to register and become part of our network. If you already have a ZSN account, use the same link to login and

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<tr><th>Item</th><th>Description</th><th>Notes</th></tr>
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register your interest with Seqwater. For more information, please visit https://www.seqwater.com.au/supplier-information

3. Can the SDIP project team review previous commitments about Early and Enabling Works timing and provide a clear, re-baselined update?

Published CRG and project information confirms that Early and Enabling Works (EEW) are underway and that timing has changed for some activities as design, approvals, procurement and site investigations have progressed.

<table>
<tr><th>Commitment or scope item</th><th>Previous advice/timing</th><th>Updated status – as at September 2026</th></tr>
<tr><td>EEW – Removal of radial gates</td><td>Implied substantial completion by end of 2026 following an approximate 2-year delivery of Early and Enabling Works.</td><td>Very complex design and construction sequencing required to deliver this work safely. Construction efficiencies identified. To be delivered as part of main dam upgrade with input from construction contractor.

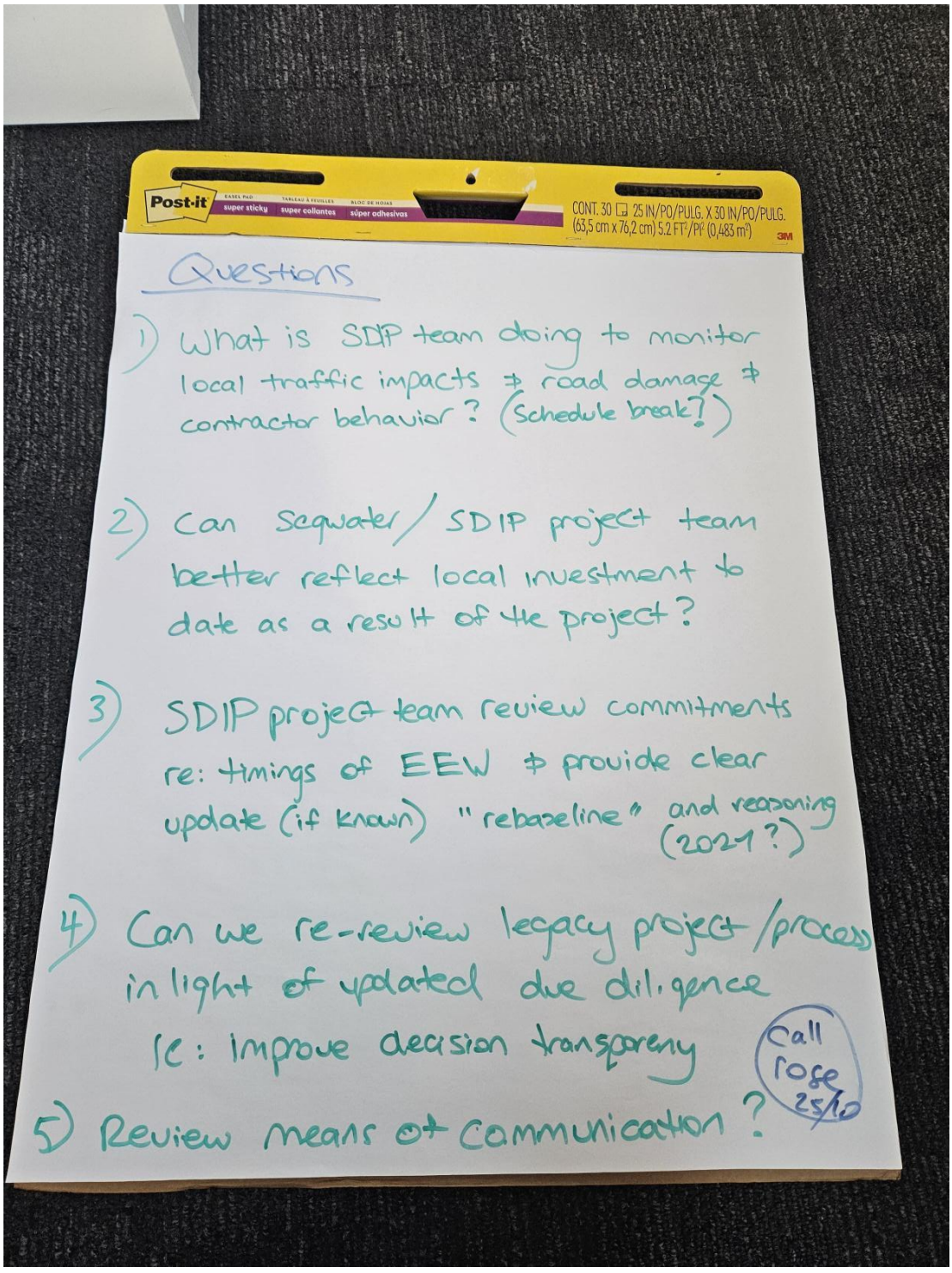
Note, the radial gates have been permanently opened until they are removed during the main dam upgrade.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EEW – Design and construction of long term, temporary cofferdam</td><td>Implied substantial completion by end of 2026 following an approximate 2-year delivery of Early and Enabling Works.</td><td>On hold, design progressed to 30%, efficiencies identified in packaging as part of main dam upgrade works with input from construction contractor.
Access to construct the cofferdam is subject to obtaining Commonwealth environmental (EPBC) approvals, due in 2027/28.</td></tr>
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<tr><td>EEW – Esk-Kilcoy Road realignment</td><td>Implied substantial completion by end of 2026 following an approximate 2-year delivery of Early and Enabling Works.</td><td>Design progressed to 80%, efficiencies identified in packaging as part of main dam upgrade works. Subject to EPBC approvals timings also, due in 2027/28.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EEW – Permanent new access tracks, including Wivenhoe-Somerset Road intersection works</td><td>Implied substantial completion by end of 2026 following an approximate 2-year delivery of Early and Enabling Works.</td><td>Wivenhoe-Somerset Road intersection works are planned for completion late 2026. From that point, left abutment access to site will be constructed as part of main dam upgrade works, with input from construction contractor.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EEW – Replacement of sluice gates</td><td>Implied substantial completion by end of 2026 following an approximate 2-year delivery of Early and Enabling Works.</td><td>Design progressed to 80% submission, under review. Construction efficiencies identified to be delivered as part of main dam upgrade with input from construction contractor. Very complex design and construction sequencing required to deliver this work safely.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EEW - Geotechnical investigations</td><td>Implied completion by end of 2026.</td><td>Substantially complete. On track for completion early 2027.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EEW - Interim Drainage Curtain (foundation drainage)</td><td>Implied completion by end of 2026.</td><td>Substantially complete. On track for completion early 2027.</td></tr>
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4. Can the legacy projects be reviewed in light of updated due diligence, with improved decision transparency?
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Item	Description	Notes
		The legacy options have been progressively reviewed as further information has become available about engineering, terrain, safety, accessibility, tenure, environmental impacts, cost and ongoing maintenance. For example, further assessment resulted in the kayak launch being removed from the combined package because of significant engineering constraints. The SDIP project team acknowledges that the rationale for any changes to the current prioritised list of legacy project ideas, due to engineering constraints, deserves additional coverage with CRG members and the broader community. The remaining package is still subject to feasibility work, costing and Queensland Government consideration through the Detailed Business Case. The SDIP project team will facilitate an additional pairwise assessment process with the CRG group based off the most recent due diligence findings at the next CRG meeting (CRG #9). **5. Can the project review its methods of communication?** The project currently uses CRG meetings, newsletters, community information sessions, email updates, the project website and direct telephone and email contact for main communications. From time to time, local and regional media outlets are also engaged to support project communications. CRG members have previously provided feedback about the local limitations on communication accessibility, encouraging Seqwater to consider more project related social media, shareable information and the need for clear project updates. The SDIP project team acknowledges that, at times due to unforeseen circumstances, previous external communications materials have not fully reflected the timings, scope of works and schedule commitments that have ultimately occurred onsite. We recognise this may have led to differences between the information provided and residents experiences, and we are committed to improving the accuracy, consistency and timelines of future project updates. The SDIP project team is enforcing stronger requirements for our contractors' delivering work on the project to improve accuracy of distributed information. Namely through the enforcement of a firm two-week minimum timeframe from the start of a new activity for the distribution of external communications materials. This process is now firmly tied to an approved and 'locked in' start date by the contractor and SDIP project team.

Item	Description	Notes
		We appreciate the CRG's continued support, patience and understanding.
5.	Conclusion	Next meeting – early December 2026.

Attachment 1 – Group Reflection Exercise notes



Community Reference Group Meeting 8





Monday 24 August 2026

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Agenda

Item	Details
Welcome	• Refreshments and networking
Outstanding actions	• Group exercise – part 2
Communications update	• Update
Project update	• Update
Group Exercise	• Workshop session
Conclusion	• Other business / discussions within community • Key takeaways • Identified future meeting topics • Next meeting (late November/early December 2026)

Communications Update

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Communications Update

- Briefings upcoming with Government stakeholders regarding Left Bank abutment geotechnical investigations

- Information sessions
  - 16 September – Esk Country Markets
  - 26 September – Kilcoy Yowie Markets
  - 11 October – Fernvale Country Markets

- Recreation assessment survey – Now open if interested to complete
- Reserve land consultation – website update and newsletter for Q3
- Facilitator procurement, TBC later in 2026











DIP SENTIMENT SURVEY 2026 RESULTS

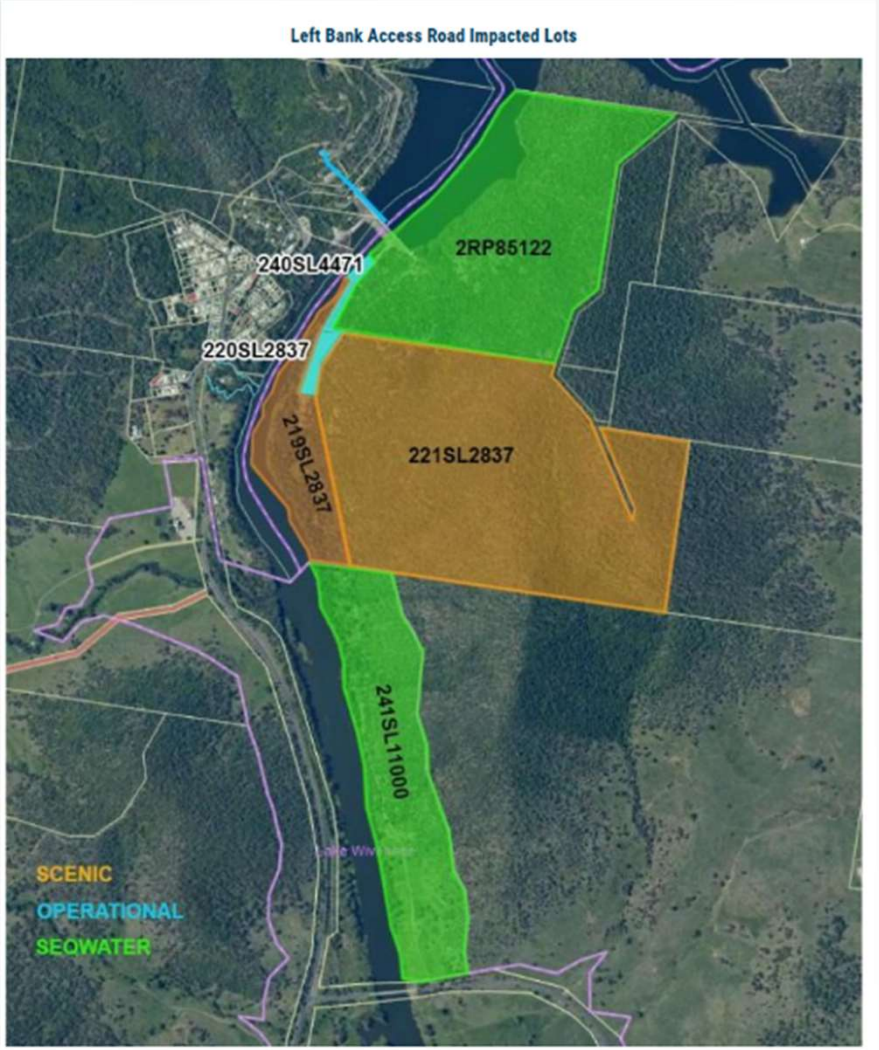
- 50km of dams, sample size 220 (Somerset & Noosa lower)
- Overall positive sentiment 62%, up to 89% when prompted
- Misconception remains – bigger dam wall = worse flood

- Opportunity – build broader awareness of the Project = pos. support
- Overall trust to deliver – was 72% now up to 78%
- Community wants quarterly info, via letterbox, email and socials
- Interested in timing, environment, water security/supply impacts

Reserve Land – Community Consultation

- New access road to support dam upgrade works and future operations.
- A section of the road will cross State Trust Land.
- Community access impacts are expected to be minimal.
- Access restrictions will apply during and after construction.
- Works help improve dam safety and flood resilience.

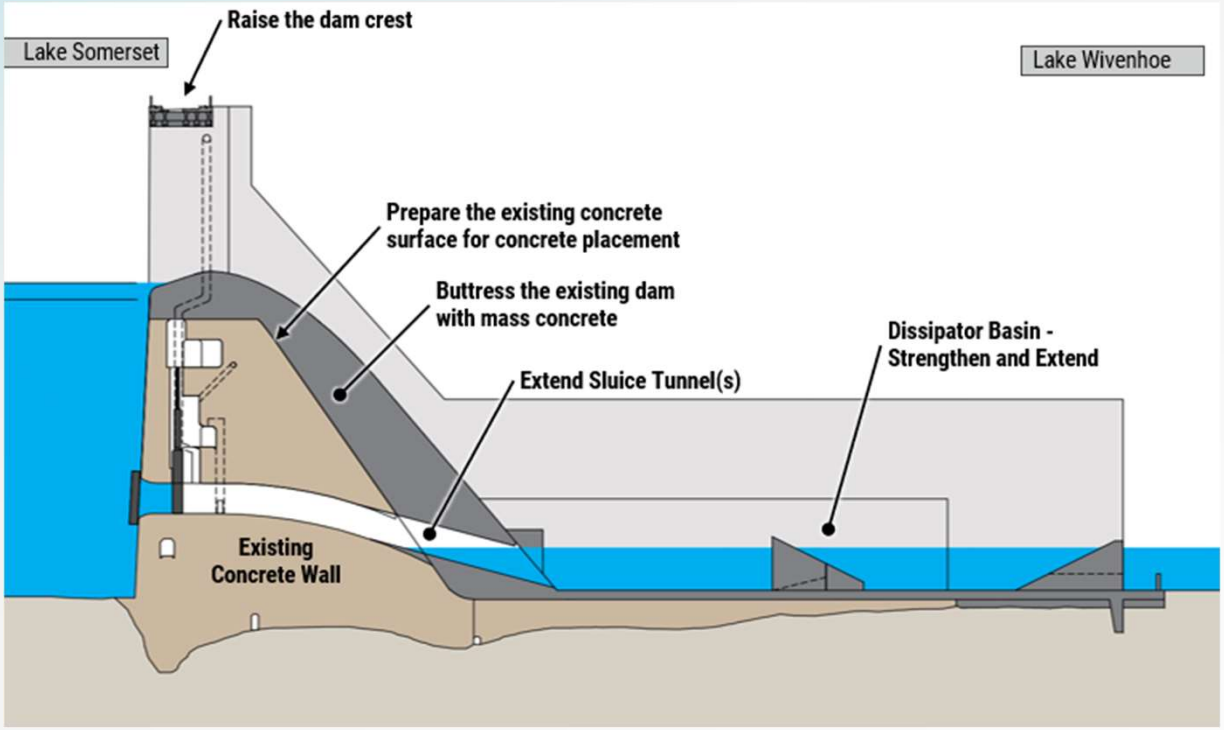
While the project will further restrict access to a small area of State Trust Land near the dam wall, existing public access is already very limited, and impacts to recreation and community use are expected to be minimal.



Project update

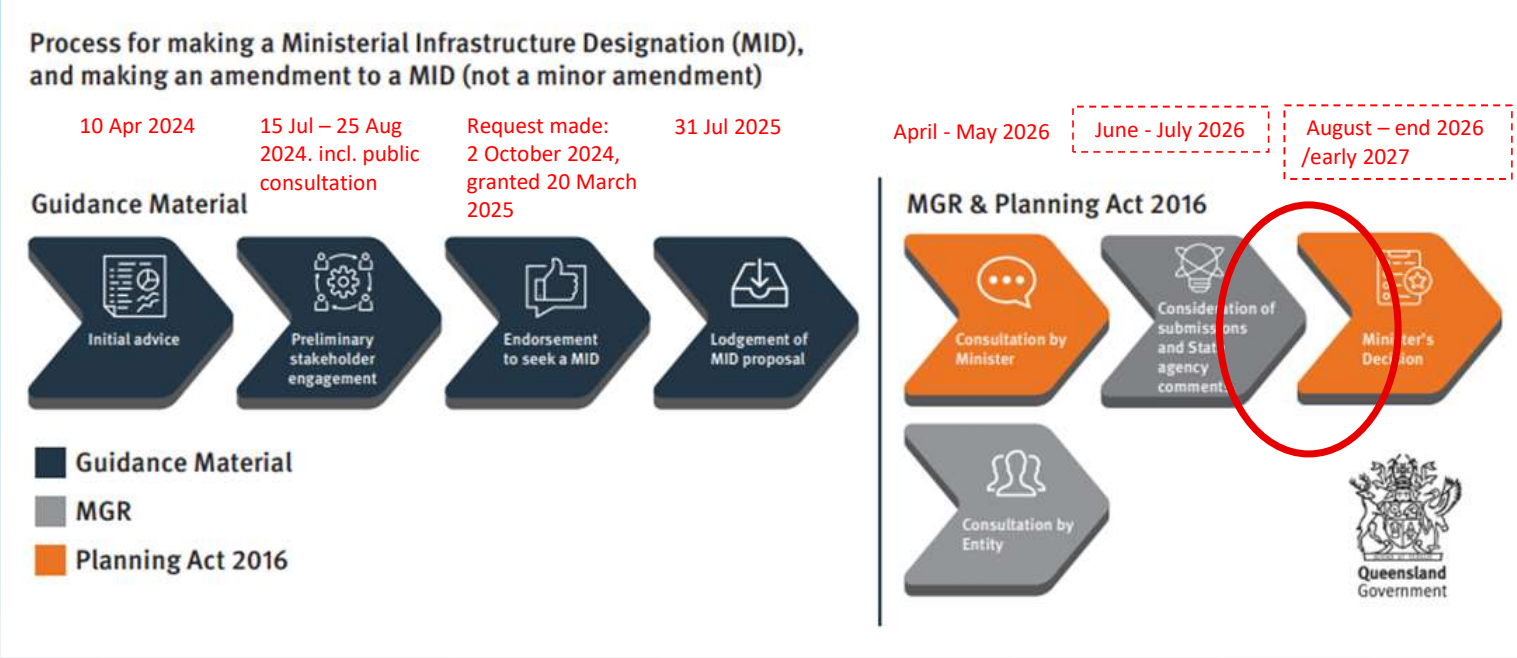
DBC Status

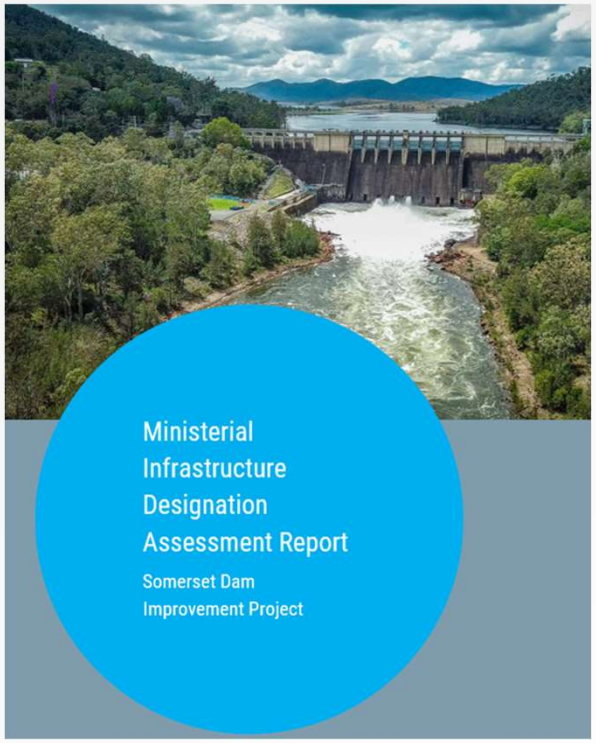
- Detailed Business Case being completed
  - Undergoing reviews
  - Organisation consideration prior to submission to Queensland Government



Ministerial Infrastructure Designation

Process to Date – State Approvals - Ministerial Infrastructure Designation





Onsite activities

- Geotechnical investigations and foundation drainage works continue
- Investigations to commence soon for difficult-access left abutment works
- Wivenhoe/Somerset Rd works progressing well, bulk earthworks completed and road formation/intersection activities underway – target completion Oct/Nov 2026
- Gate manufacturer progressing towards 80% design







Left Abutment Geotechnical Investigations

Facts

When: September 2026

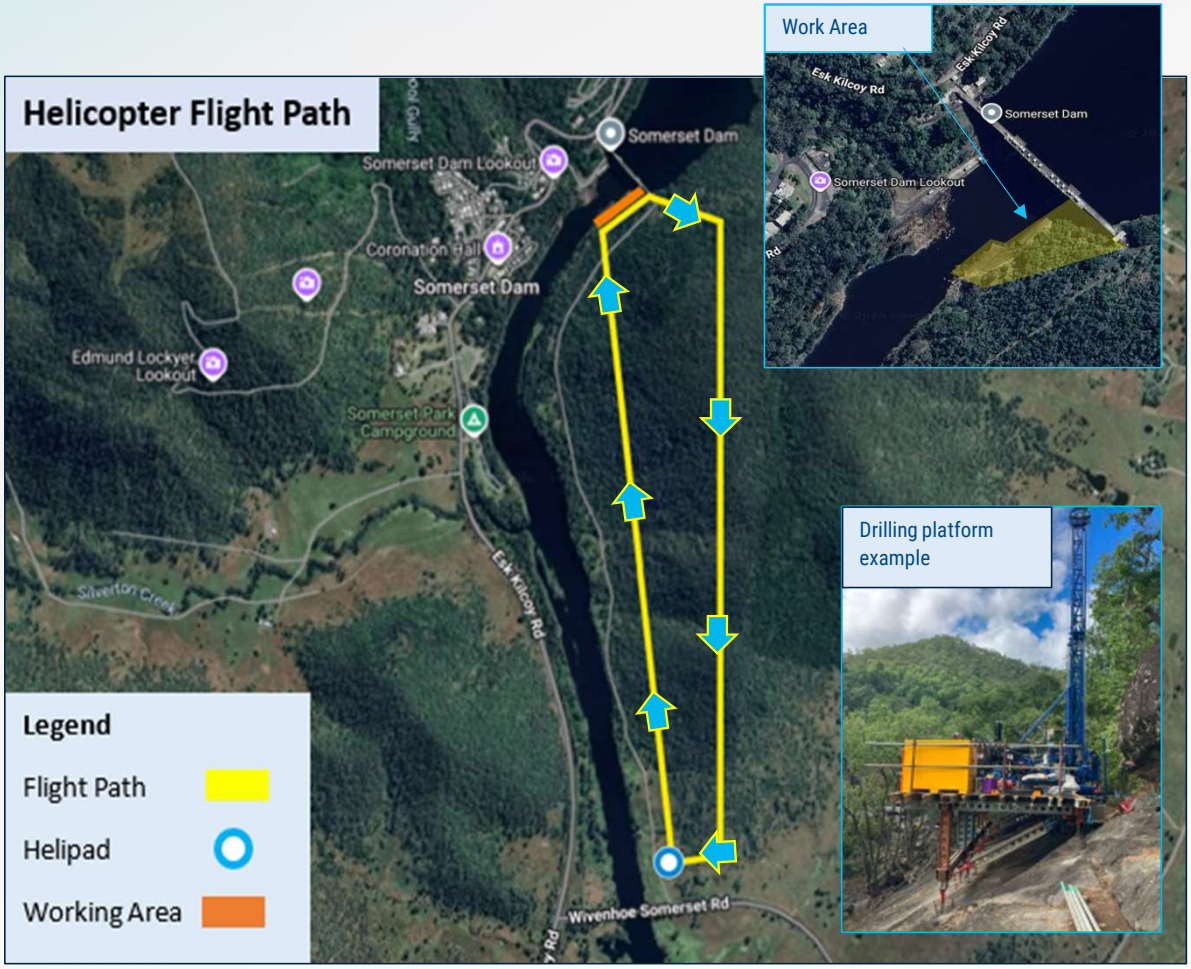
- **Mobilisation (4-5 weeks)**
- Works (8-12 weeks approx.)
- Demobilisation (4-5 weeks)

Frequency:

- Approx. 1 lift movement per hour*
- intermittently between 7:30am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday

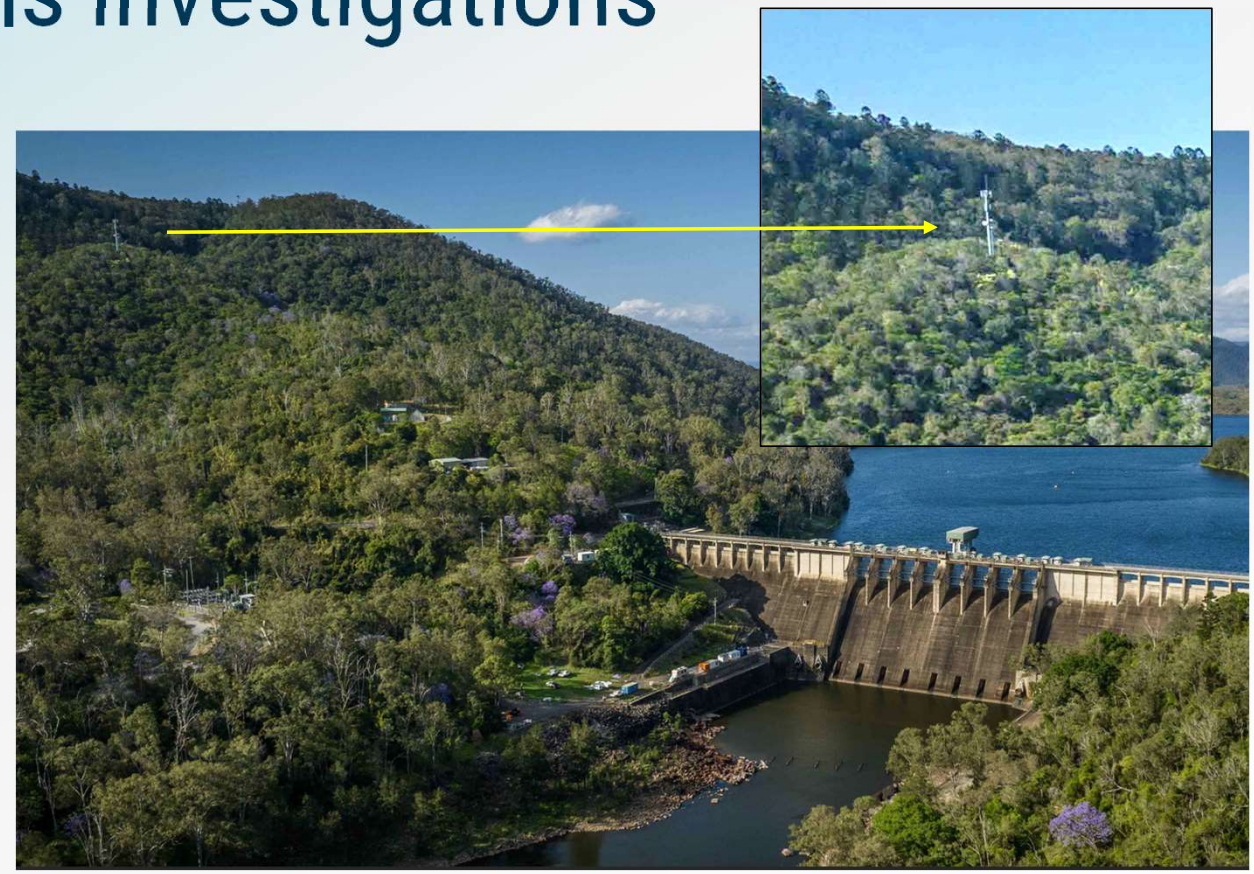
Impacts:

- Noise (mostly during mobilisation phase)
- Significant reduction in helicopter movements during investigations phase
- Noise assessment completed



Telecommunications investigations

- Meetings held with Optus (31 July) and Telstra (5 August) regarding their 4G/5G networks
- Both companies undertook to investigate their current network capability/coverage and respond to Seqwater
- Future project requirements also discussed



Schedule look ahead for remainder of 2026

- Targeting completion of DBC, then submission, subject to reviews
- Design
  - Complete 80% design activities for the left/right bank access tracks, Esk Kilcoy Road realignment
  - Complete IFC design for Interim Drainage Curtain works
  - Continue to progress gate manufacturer toward 80% design and with supporting dam design integration activities
- Undertake difficult-access left bank geotechnical investigation works
- Complete Wivenhoe / Somerset Rd intersection works
- Prepare for procurement phase, post DBC completion
- Continued engagement with JPAC regarding Native Title considerations
- Continue to progress EPBC offsets, including investigation of offset sites



Group Exercise

Question setting

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Workshop objective

To **identify** and **prioritise** the **key questions** (up to 5) the Community Reference Group wants the Somerset Dam Improvement Project team to answer at future meetings or through written responses.



Individual Reflection – 5 minutes

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What is one piece of project information you expected to receive but have not yet been provided?

Information gaps

What is one concern you think the project team has not yet clearly answered?

Unanswered concerns

Risks

What is one project risk, community impact or uncertainty you think needs more attention?

Community confidence

What answer would help improve community confidence in how the project is being planned or delivered?

Opportunities

What is one opportunity you think the project may be overlooking for the local community, environment, economy or visitors?

Decision transparency

What is one decision, assumption or trade-off you want the project team to explain more clearly?

TASK - Write questions or concerns/opportunities on sticky notes

Group discussion – 5-10 minutes

STEPS

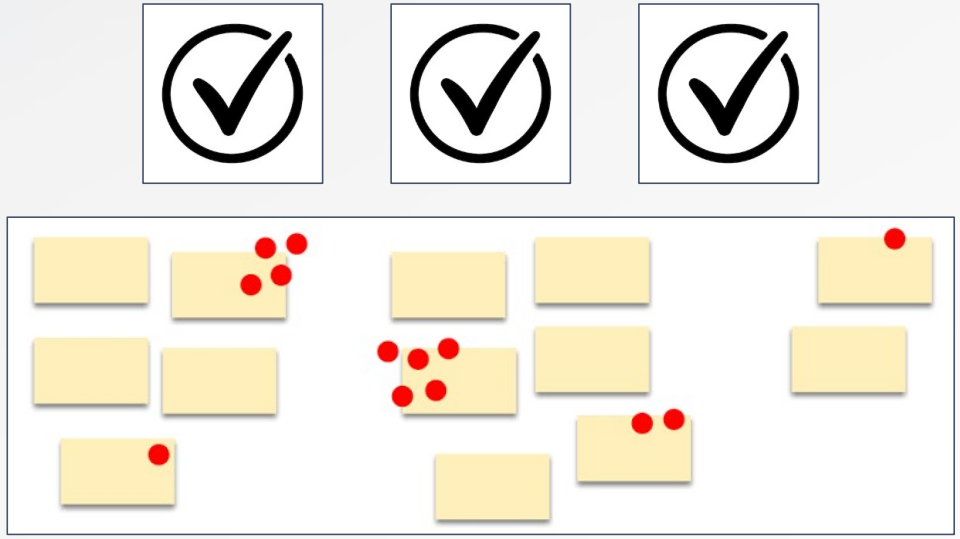
1. Share individual questions/concerns
   - discuss with each other why its important to you?
2. Group matching/similar categories
3. Combine similar responses if needed
4. **Choose top 3-4 as a group** questions/risks/opportunities.
5. Write each question in a clear format if needed.

"A good question is clear, answerable, relevant and useful."

Final rationalisation – 5-10 minutes

Workshop final steps

- 3 votes each
- Tick next to the question or opportunity you prefer or think is most important



Next Steps:

- Project team to review key questions, risks, opportunities
- Formalise a response to each

Post meeting Survey Monkey

Keep an eye out for our upcoming survey in your inbox to check in with you all about:

- Future of CRG
- Frequency
- Attendance
- Usefulness



Other business

Key takeaways

Next meeting

December 2026

Thank you

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