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4.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

4.1 Introduction

Community and stakeholder consultation relating to the raising of the Glebe Weir as a concept (independent of the Wandoan Coal Project) commenced in May 2003 before the EIS process via the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy (CQRWSS) (NRW, 2006b).

At that stage, the raising of Glebe Weir was one of the options that were assessed to meet water demands in the Upper Dawson sub-region. The CQRWSS was prepared through a partnership process including State government agencies, local government, industry and community organisations.

The Glebe Option (as part of the Wandoan Coal Project) was referred to the Commonwealth DEWHA and declared a controlled action under the EPBC Act. The Referral is a publicly available document placed on the DEWHA website.

In addition to, and independent of, the Wandoan Coal Project consultation programme, consultation with the local community and stakeholders specifically relating to the impact assessment for the Glebe Option began in May 2008, and is ongoing.

Key stakeholders were identified based on their proximity to the proposed pipeline route, as well as their proximity to the increased area of inundation from the raised weir. This included:

1. *'Affected Persons'* - comprising landowners located directly along the pipeline route and/or within the increased inundation area, as illustrated in **Figure 7-4** ; or
2. *'Interested Persons'* - comprising local or State regulatory authorities and groups with an interest in the land impacted by the pipeline route and/or the increased inundation area.

Collectively, these parties are referred to in this report as 'the stakeholders'.

For the raising of Glebe Weir and the increased inundation area, six directly affected stakeholders were identified. The stakeholder most impacted is the State of Queensland, which purchased properties in this area as part of the proposed Nathan Dam development in the mid-90's. However, for the purpose of assessing property impacts, consultation was also undertaken with the four lessees of the State-owned properties.

For the water supply pipeline, eight stakeholders were identified as being potentially impacted by the pipeline route. The most directly affected stakeholder is NRW, as more than 80% of the route is sited within the Nathan Road reserve. As trustees of the road reserve, Dalby Regional Council and Banana Shire Council have also been consulted.

4.2 Consultation Objectives and Methods

The objectives of the Glebe Option stakeholder and community consultation program were to:

1. increase community and stakeholder awareness and understanding of the Glebe Option;
2. ensure the community and stakeholders potentially impacted by the Glebe Option were informed of the water supply option, were engaged in the design consideration process by identifying potential impacts and issues;
3. provide opportunities for the stakeholders to comment on relevant issues; and
4. establish an ongoing forum for community and stakeholder involvement.

4.3 Consultation strategy

The consultation strategy for the Glebe Option was highly targeted and focused on engaging stakeholders that were directly impacted by or had a direct interest in this option. Given the scale of the Glebe Option, the likely minor degree of impact and the broader consultation undertaken in relation to the Wandoan Coal Project, this was considered appropriate.

Consultation with the stakeholders focused specifically on introducing this option as one of three potential water supply options for the Project. The approach outlined the aims and implications associated with this option, and discussed and captured stakeholder issues and project constraints to be addressed should this option be selected as the preferred water supply solution for the Project.

The strategy was cognisant of other simultaneous processes associated with the Nathan Dam and Pipelines Project, the Wandoan Coal Project and the Surat Basin Rail Project. Coordination between activities was achieved wherever possible to minimise interruption to stakeholders and to avoid 'over-consultation'.

4.4 Consultation activities

Community feedback for the Glebe Option was primarily collected orally and consultation activities comprised:

- direct mail – to introduce this water supply option to the stakeholders, outline consultation opportunities and request property access permission for on-site investigations;
- informal discussions – present and discuss concept design plans for the raised weir and pipeline route to identify key issues to be considered as part of the design process and on-site investigations;
- formal individual stakeholder meetings – discuss concept design plans for the pipeline route and/or the potential inundation area and discuss specific property constraints;
- follow-up phone calls – to clarify or discuss further key issues raised during stakeholder meetings; and
- a toll free phone number (1800 158 651).

Copies of direct mail form letters are provided in **Appendix 4-A**.

During the consultation period, SunWater also established an information office locally in Taroom. The aim was to provide a local centre where stakeholders and community members could talk directly with a Community Liaison Officer about any issues of concern on any SunWater project and to record their feedback and comments as part of the consultation process.

At the time of producing this report, only one stakeholder and one member of the local community had raised concerns or provided feedback about raising Glebe Weir or constructing the pipeline. The stakeholder was a landholder along the pipeline route who expressed concerns about locating the pipeline in the road reserve rather than the Surat Basin Rail corridor, and the community member was concerned about the potential loss of vegetation in the road easement and stated a preference to see the pipeline entirely on private property.

4.4.1 Stakeholder database

'Affected Persons' were identified by assessing maps that delineated the potential area of increased inundation from the raised weir, and by assessing the concept designs for the pipeline route from the weir to the mine. The 'Affected Persons' database is provided in **Appendix 4-B**.

'Interested Persons' were identified by assessing which Local or State authorities had a controlling or regulatory interest in any land impacted by this option, and by researching and identifying community groups and stakeholders that held an indirect interest in the Glebe Option, such as cultural, environmental or industry.

The following outlines the list of 'Interested Persons' who SunWater has consulted throughout the consultation period. The forums at which consultation was undertaken are noted alongside the "interested person":

- Banana Shire Council – presentation in relation to the Nathan Dam proposal in which the Glebe weir raising was also discussed;
- Dalby and Banana Shire Councils - via access letters that explained the Glebe Option;
- Denis Carr, CEO of the former Taroom Shire Council - in various phone conversations;
- Natural Resources and Water (NRW) – property impacts and relationships to Nathan Dam at numerous meetings;
- Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) – relationship to Nathan Dam;
- Native title claimants – Wulli Wulli, Iman #2 and Robert West as part of the cultural heritage survey process;
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI) – Claire Peterken with regard to fish passage requirements;
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Phil Rowland with regard to Boggomoss, the Boggomoss Snail and pipeline routes;
- Dawson Valley Development Association (DVDA) – general updates at the Nathan Dam Taskforce meetings;
- every landholder in the Nathan Dam and Pipeline Project database (which covers the Glebe Option study area) – all have received SunWater's landowner update in which the Glebe Option was specifically mentioned;
- Glebe Weir raising was discussed as part of Wandoan Coal Project briefings of government agencies in both Brisbane and Taroom, and at the community meetings and workshops held in relation to that project (see Chapter 4 of Volume 1 of the EIS);
- Glebe Weir raising was discussed as part of briefings of government agencies in both Brisbane and Taroom;
- SunWater regional manager (Biloela) Neville Wogandt also discussed the Glebe Option with:
 - Irrigator Advisory Committee (IAC) - Dawson Valley
 - Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association (DCCA) - Kelli Nilsson
 - Banana Shire Council - John Hooper (Mayor)
 - Fitzroy Basin Food and Fibre (FBF&F) - Jeanie Conachan and Robert Hutchinson.

In addition, one on one meetings were held with affected and other interested stakeholders.

4.5 Consultation Results

Dates and key issues identified by stakeholders during the consultation program are described below and a full list of itemised comments is provided in **Appendix 4-C**. These comments are based on direct interviews and no other forms of communication (either letters or telephone enquiries) have been received as at the date of this EIS.

Generally, stakeholders understood the need for development in the region and the role of water supply in that development. Discussions in meetings therefore concentrated on issues specific to particular properties and how those issues could be best resolved.

No concerns were raised by stakeholders in relation to the construction camps or temporary construction workforce.

4.5.1 Property access

Interruption to private property access was one of the primary concerns raised by the majority of the stakeholders in relation to both the area of inundation and pipeline. This applied to access requirements for onsite investigations, during the construction phase and for ongoing project infrastructure maintenance needs.

Through the consultation process, it was identified that as many of the properties impacted are used for commercial purposes, access is required to be maintained during the construction period for the landowners, their family, staff and for commercial stock and transport vehicles to ensure the viability of the business is maintained.

With respect to the weir raising component, access issues primarily related to two properties.

With respect to the pipeline route, access issues relate to the period in which the trench is open and may cross an access track from Nathan Road to the property. This concern was largely alleviated during the consultation process by information being provided by SunWater to stakeholders and a better understanding by stakeholders of the construction process, in that their current access tracks will only be affected for a matter of days and an alternative immediately adjacent will be provided in the interim.

Specific requests by property owners regarding access arrangements included the following:

- some property owners requested they be indemnified from ongoing maintenance of infrastructure associated with the Glebe Option and from damage claims resulting from the use or access through private property for the purpose of the Option;
- recognition of ongoing access needs by property owners to specific areas of the property potentially impacted by the Glebe Option; and

- a request that private roads used for the purpose of the Glebe Option are upgraded to suit the increased level of traffic anticipated (mostly during the construction period), and private roads impacted by increased water inundation from the weir or its tributaries are raised to suit the new full supply level.

Ongoing consultation and negotiations with the stakeholders will be undertaken to finalise specific property access requirements, if the Glebe Option is selected as the preferred water supply option.

4.5.2 Private property infrastructure

Each of the properties impacted has commercial and/or domestic infrastructure assets that may be impacted by the selected pipeline route or the increased inundation area (or both).

The following is a general outline of the most common private property infrastructure assets that will need to be considered during future detailed design processes, with the full list of specific assets impacted for each property outlined in the itemised comments (**Appendix 4-C**):

- boundary and internal fences;
- watering points;
- grids and access gates;
- bores, pumps and water access ramps;
- paddocks, grazing yards and irrigated areas; and
- mustering routes, internal roads and maintenance tracks.

The need for relocating existing fences to suit the new water supply level, and how this would impact on water points for stock is an issue of concern for stakeholders impacted by the increased inundation area. While the stakeholders would prefer their riparian land to be fenced to prevent stock from becoming bogged at low storage levels, this would have adverse impacts on their capability to freely access the river banks as watering points for stock.

During future detailed design processes, options for dealing with affected watering points and the provision of suitable alternative watering points will be discussed with each affected stakeholder to ensure satisfactory arrangements can be determined.

SunWater will discuss the best alternative relocation points for all affected infrastructure and the Project will bear the costs of relocation.

In addition, stakeholders have expressed the desire to be consulted further on the preferred location of the Glebe Option infrastructure assets, for example pump stations and valves, to determine the potential impacts associated with the proposed location of this infrastructure.

Detailed design plans for the pipeline route outlining the location of all Glebe Option infrastructure assets will be discussed with each affected stakeholder prior to finalising these plans.

4.5.3 Power supply

Another issue raised by stakeholders was the location of overhead power lines, due to the potential impacts from locating such lines above areas of commercial machinery use, such as cultivation and harvesting equipment and centre pivot irrigators.

This issue potentially impacts one property near the weir if the power is accessed from the north, and two properties if it is accessed from the south. The only additional power line on the pipeline route is a short section from the existing line on Nathan Road to the balancing storage. The latter is a hilly area so the issue is unlikely to be relevant.

Stakeholders expressed a desire for alternative power supply options to be considered.

Detailed design plans outlining the preferred method of power supply and location of power assets will be discussed with impacted stakeholders prior to finalising these plans.

4.5.4 Impacts on vegetation

The majority of stakeholders consulted enquired about potential impacts on vegetation should the Glebe Option proceed to construction. In particular, the issue of property owners' obligations to local or State regulatory authorities to maintain a certain level of vegetation on the property, or to protect identified vegetation was raised.

The stakeholders requested the Project bear all costs and responsibility associated with procuring the necessary permits to clear, remove or relocate vegetation and/or waterways.

It was explained to the stakeholders that this was a standard process of any major project and all costs and permits required for this water supply option, should it proceed, would be borne by the Project.

4.5.5 Common infrastructure corridor

The suggestion of a common infrastructure corridor was made by the Dalby Regional Council and another stakeholder located along the pipeline route.

As mentioned previously and outlined in **Chapter 5**, the option to co-locate the pipeline within the Surat Basin Rail corridor was considered and assessed during early investigations. For the section of pipeline required for the Wandoan Coal Project it was determined not to be the preferred option due to a number of issues. This included the implications of gaining multiple easements (approximately 25 as compared to six), interruption to landholders for maintenance access, risk of weed introductions and the current status of design planning with the rail location which would have delayed the pipeline design for this option. By using the existing Nathan Road reserve as an alternative common corridor, all of these impacts will be minimised.

It should be noted that co-location has been achieved by the preferred route as the pipeline will be located alongside existing road, power and telecommunications infrastructure.

4.5.6 Dust

Four stakeholders raised the issue of dust impacts from construction on neighbouring properties. Standard mitigation practices during construction were explained. These are detailed in the Environment Management Plan (**Chapter 21**).

4.6 Summary

Comments raised throughout the Glebe Option consultation process focused on anticipated impacts resulting from the increased area of inundation and/or location of the pipeline route.

The most commonly noted issues related to temporary construction impacts, including private property access, impacts to existing property infrastructure, potential sources and locations of power supplies and impacts to vegetation. Other less frequent issues included the concept of a common infrastructure corridor and other detailed design issues such as the buried depth of the pipeline.

Overall, the stakeholders consulted acknowledged that solutions to their issues were likely to be achieved, as long as they continued to be consulted and involved throughout future detailed design processes and construction planning.

The consultation program will continue if the Glebe Option is selected as part of, or the, water supply alternative for the Wandoan Coal Project.