

NATHAN DAM AND PIPELINES PROJECT

Additional information to the Environmental Impact Statement



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1. PURPOSE OF THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This Additional Information to the Environmental Impact Statement (AEIS) to the Nathan Dam and Pipelines Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared in response to submissions received by the Coordinator-General following the public review period of the EIS. The EIS was prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) prepared by the Coordinator-General under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* and in accordance with the Bilateral Agreement between the State of Queensland and the Australian Government made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)* EPBC Act.

Accordingly, by letter dated 26 July 2012 the Coordinator-General requested SunWater to prepare additional information to the EIS to address the issues raised in submissions received. Figure 1-8 of the EIS is reproduced below (**Figure 1-1**) to show the position of the AEIS in the steps of EIS preparation.

The purpose of the AEIS is not to duplicate the original EIS, but to provide further clarification of specific issues raised in submissions.

The AEIS will be provided to the Coordinator-General for consideration in preparing the Coordinator-General's report.

Since release of the EIS, the Project has further developed and the AEIS provides an opportunity to make these developments known to the Coordinator-General. The developments generally represent refinement of elements of the Project and they have in part been undertaken in order to address the submissions received. The main areas of refinement are the pipeline route and length, and the land acquisition requirements. These are described in **Part C** of the AEIS.

1.1. Consultation process since release of the EIS

The consultation process for the EIS was described in the EIS. The process was broad ranging and thorough. The EIS was publicly released for comment on 23 April 2012. The comment period closed on 5 June 2012. Immediately prior to release a public notice was placed in newspapers circulated in the local area, the State and nationally and stated:

- where copies of the EIS are available for inspection;
- how it can be purchased (or obtained free of charge);
- that submissions may be made to the Coordinator-General about the EIS;
- the date by which submissions must be made; and
- the address for submissions.

During the display period SunWater undertook a range of consultation activities as summarised below:

- placed hardcopies of the EIS at 4 regional locations for viewing (and Brisbane);
- distributed numerous electronic copies on CD ROM;

- placed 2 advertisements in three regional newspapers (in addition to CG required advertising in State and national newspapers) describing the EIS and submission process;
- distributed Newsletter 3 to approximately 250 stakeholders and placed it at 3 locations;
- held public information days at Dalby, Chinchilla, Taroom and Theodore;
- held a Community Liaison Group meeting in Taroom;
- held agency briefings in Brisbane and Rockhampton; and
- maintained the Project web site and 1800 number.

A consultation report for this period is included as **Appendix A1-B**.

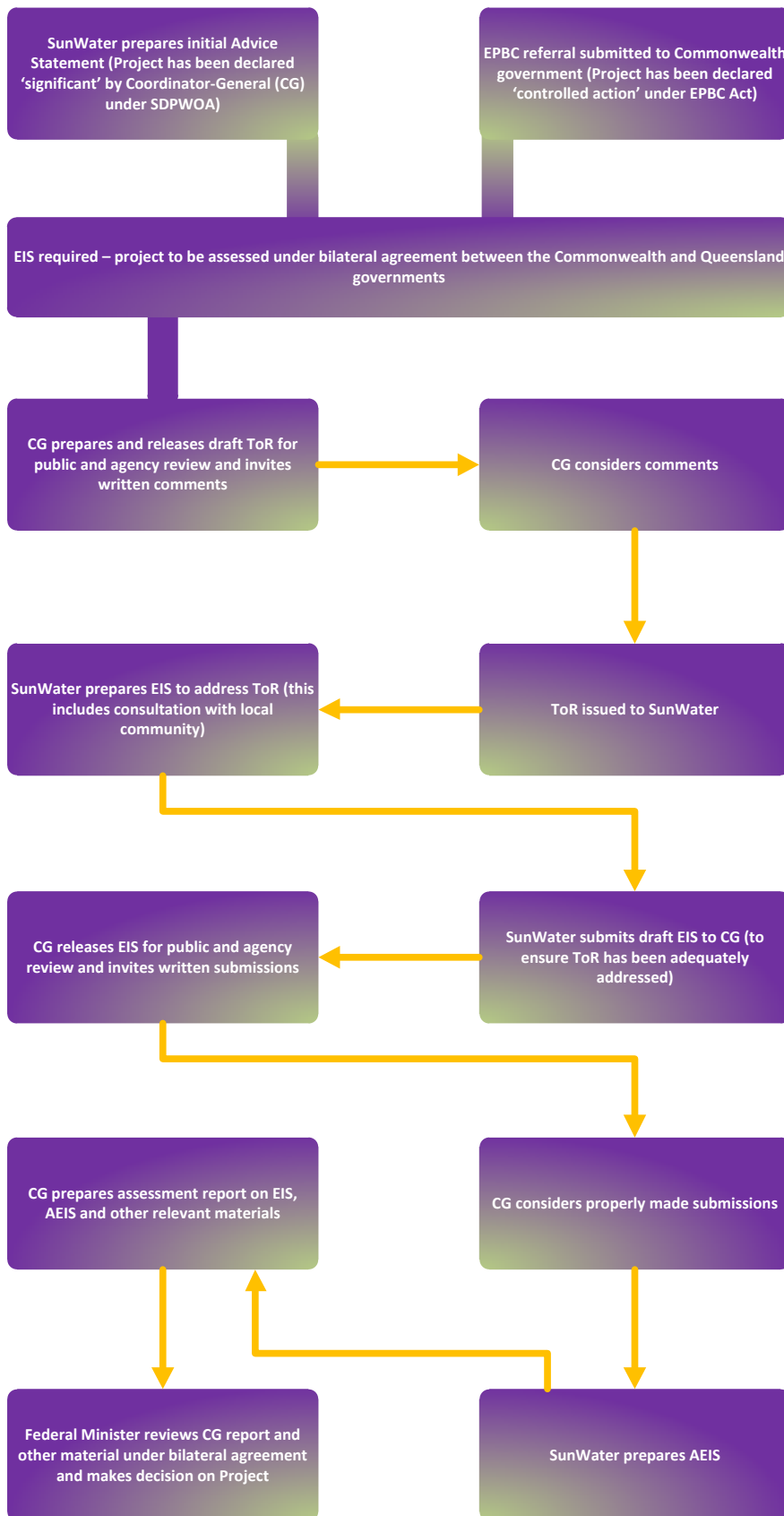


Figure 1-1 Key Steps in EIS preparation

2. ANALYSIS OF SUBMISSIONS

2.1. Number and source of submissions

Fifty-eight submissions on the EIS were received by the Coordinator-General. These comprised twenty-eight from individuals, nine from organisations, two from local government, seventeen from State government departments or Government-owned corporations and two from Commonwealth agencies. The source of submissions is summarised in **Table 2-1**. The Coordinator-General accepted submissions received after the formal closure of the submission period and these have been included. It is noted that for privacy, the identity of private submitters is not provided. Some State government departments have changed names since the submission was made.

Table 2-1 Source of submissions

Number of submissions	Submitter category
2	Australian Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now Department of the Environment) ▪ Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
17	State Government Departments and Government-owned corporations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (now Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) ▪ Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (now Department of Agriculture, and Fisheries) ▪ Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability ▪ Department of Education, Training and Employment Services (now Department of Education and Training) ▪ Department of Energy and Water Supply ▪ Department of Environment and Heritage Protection ▪ Department of Housing and Public Works ▪ Department of Justice and Attorney General ▪ Department of Local Government and Planning (now Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) ▪ Department of Natural Resources and Mines ▪ Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (now Department of State Development) ▪ Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games ▪ Department of Transport and Main Roads ▪ Queensland Health ▪ Queensland Police Service ▪ Queensland Treasury ▪ Stanwell Corporation Ltd
2	Local Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Banana Shire Council ▪ Western Downs Regional Council
9	Non-government organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AgForce Taroom ▪ Capricorn Conservation Council ▪ Cotton Australia ▪ Fitzroy Basin Association ▪ Gladstone Area Water Board ▪ Queensland Conservation Council ▪ Queensland Murray-Darling Committee ▪ Taroom Community Liaison Group ▪ Wildlife Preservation Society
28	Private

2.2. Methodology for response to submissions

Each submission was reviewed by staff of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (now Department of State Development, DSD) to identify the issues raised. The issues were recorded in an issues database. Each issue was allocated an individual identification number comprised of the submission number and the issue number within that submission. For example, 13.9 is the ninth issue identified in Submission 13. A comprehensive list of the issues raised in each submission is provided in **Appendix A2-A**.

Part B of this AEIS responds to the issues raised and is structured to align with EIS chapter headings. Within each chapter the specific comments raised are pooled into broader issues so that related issues can be addressed in a coordinated manner. The table in **Appendix A2-A** cross references each specific issue to the section of the AEIS in which the response can be found.

The AEIS provides technical responses to the issues raised in submissions and provides conclusions with regards to those issues. As previously discussed, the purpose of the AEIS is not to duplicate the original EIS, SunWater having already prepared an EIS in accordance with the ToR, but to provide further clarification of specific issues raised in submissions. Furthermore, the EIS as released is a public document and cannot be altered. Where submissions noted typographical errors, incorrect cross-references or suggested changes to wording, these amendments are addressed in **Appendix A2-B** as the EIS cannot be reissued with these changes.

DSD officers determined that some of the issues raised did not require a response. For example some points raised in submissions represented information provided for the proponent's benefit. All submitters who provided such information are thanked and the information will be used at the appropriate time should the Project proceed.

Some submissions represent the respondents' views on broad issues, such as disagreeing with dams *per se*, or contained general statements that the EIS was inadequate. If the submitter did not specifically identify in what way the EIS was inadequate, such as by offering an alternative assessment methodology, identifying an overlooked relevant report or finding a technical error in a calculation, then a response is not possible other than restating what is already in the EIS.

There were also a number of points which suggested various plans or outputs should be completed within the EIS phase. In most cases those plans represent the outcome of standard mandatory processes that will occur at the appropriate time with respect to Project approvals and the design process. Bringing them forward makes no material difference to the ability of agencies or the public to assess the prudence or feasibility of the Project and as they are a requirement of standard planning processes, their development is assured.

In the time since the EIS was produced a number of pieces of relevant legislation and policy have changed. These are identified in **Section 1.5** of Part B of the AEIS then used in the relevant chapters.



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