

## **PART B – AEIS**

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## **24. SOCIAL VALUES AND MANAGEMENT OF IMPACTS**

This chapter addresses issues raised in submissions relevant to the Project's identified Social Values. A number of issues raised were already addressed in the EIS, and for such items a cross reference is provided with further clarification where relevant. As was noted in the EIS, the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for the project will be finalised prior to construction and will utilise the social impact assessment guideline available at the time.

### **24.1. Training and employment**

Several submissions identified the need for specific workforce management strategies and recruitment targets to be included in a SIMP. In particular, submissions identified the need for strategies targeting employment of women, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, people with a disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. These issues were addressed in Section 24.5.2 and Section 24.9.3 of the EIS and specifically, Table 24-45. Greater detail will be provided in the Workforce Management Plan developed prior to construction.

As outlined in Section 24.5.2.2 of the EIS, training opportunities would be made available to the existing workforce in the region to enhance their capacity to access employment opportunities provided by the Project. In particular, Table 24-45 outlined actions to maximise the benefits of employment and training opportunities associated with the Project.

### **24.2. Indigenous employment and business participation**

A number of submissions identified the need for further information regarding the recruitment of Indigenous workers to the Project and the development of an Indigenous Participation Plan.

Contractors will be required to look for opportunities to maximise local and regional employment benefits and provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Culturally sensitive recruitment processes, tailored employment inductions and opportunities for Indigenous mentoring will be implemented and strategies for attracting Indigenous people from across Queensland to FIFO/DIDO positions will be considered. Targets for employment of Indigenous people will be agreed in consultation with Skills Queensland and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and will be included in the Indigenous Participation Plan to be developed prior to construction.

Unemployment statistics for the Cherbourg and Woorabinda communities presented in the EIS were from the 2006 ABS Census. More recent statistics for the December Quarter 2015 from the Department of Employment (Small Area Labour Markets, Smoothed Series) indicate that Woorabinda had an unemployment rate of 9.0 per cent and Cherbourg 12.9 per cent. While it should be noted that these are based on a small labour force of 554 people and 511 people respectively, there is likely to be an opportunity for the contractor to actively train and recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during the construction phase of the Project.

### **24.3. Local industry participation**

Three submissions identified the need for preparation of a strategy that encourages and enables the use of local businesses and suppliers.

Impacts on local business and industry were described in Section 24.5.3 of the EIS, while Table 24-44 outlined actions relating to local business development. Compliance with the policy and production of a Local Industry Participation Plan (LIPP) is a formal component of SunWater construction contracts and is further described in Section 25.4.3 of the EIS.

## **24.4. Community engagement**

### ***24.4.1. Community engagement strategy***

A number of submissions highlighted the need for a community engagement strategy to provide an ongoing role for stakeholders throughout the Project and to allow for the transparent sharing of information. In addition, a submitter requested the implementation of a community engagement and complaints system to ensure community members have an appropriate contact point for the Project, preferably located in Taroom.

As discussed in Section 29.2.20 of the EIS, the construction contractor will develop and implement a communication program which will include strategies to appropriately notify landowners and the community regarding activities which may affect them, including the timing, duration and likely impacts of construction activities or traffic movements. As outlined in Section 24.5.10 of the EIS, contractors will undertake communication and consultation with employees to assist in managing impacts associated with FIFO/DIDO working arrangements.

The communication program for the Project will include a process for receiving and responding to complaints in a timely and effective manner, as outlined in Section 29.4.4 of the EIS. The management of complaints will form a key part of the environmental reporting mechanism. The construction contractor will be responsible for maintaining the complaints procedure during construction and SunWater during operations. SunWater and contractor representatives will be on site and accommodated locally, which will encourage rapid response where necessary.

Section 24.9.2 of the EIS also outlined a number of actions to facilitate open and transparent engagement with stakeholders, including landholders (Table 24-49). These include the establishment of processes for engaging with landholders to facilitate suitable relocation arrangements in line with the preferences of the landholder and to relocate re-usable infrastructure to suitable locations.

In finalisation of the Social Impact Management Plan, SunWater will re-establish the Community Liaison Group if thought of benefit by stakeholders.

### ***24.4.2. Public consultation process during the EIS***

Several respondents noted concern regarding the consultation strategy which was developed and implemented for the EIS. Appendix 1C of the EIS detailed the public consultation process for the Project and described how the consultation outcomes were incorporated into the Project development and EIS process. The strategy was conducted within standard timeframes, with the OCG's agreement.

#### **24.4.3. Consultation of Project refinements with affected landholders**

Since publication of the EIS, the Project has undergone refinement in response to public feedback to improve Project efficiency and to minimise the potential impacts on the surrounding environment and stakeholders. A detailed update of the refinements and identification of changes to affected landholders has been provided in **Part C** of the AEIS.

Similar to the EIS, appropriate consultation has been undertaken with landholders newly affected, no longer affected or experiencing significant variation to the scale of impacts as a result of Project refinements. The number of landholders requiring additional consultation however, was limited when compared with the EIS with Project refinements resulting in 88 fewer individual lots affected. Consultation was completed with each individual landholder(s) and was provided in a manner to achieve the following objectives:

- clearly define the refinements to the Project and how they may affect the individual landholder;
- increase understanding about the Project with newly affected landholders;
- provide a transparent, representative and accessible discussion to address issues of landholder interest related to the Project; and
- capture landholder feedback and suggestions to assist with the SEIS.

SunWater will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community across all phases of the Project.

#### **24.5. Recreational facilities**

Two submissions identified the need for the development of recreational facilities at the Project site. In addition, a submitter suggested the development of a tourist/education centre at the Project site to be beneficial to educate people on the use of the fish ladders.

As outlined in Section 2.3.3.5 of the EIS, two recreation facilities would be provided as part of the Project, including a picnic ground, boat ramp, toilet facilities and non-potable water supply. Camping facilities may also be provided off the proposed Glebe Weir Road site should BSC wish to maintain such facilities. Section 24.5.6.1 of the EIS identified potential stakeholders likely to be involved in the design of the recreation facilities, and also the tenure, responsibility issues and obligations in relation to the facilities. Signage regarding operation of the fishway and turtleway could be provided if deemed of benefit but access by members of the public to the infrastructure will be restricted for safety reasons.

#### **24.6. Social services**

A number of submissions raised concerns about the Project increasing demand on existing social infrastructure and services.

Impacts associated with demand for social services were described in Section 24.5.6.2 of the EIS, while likely changes to population were described in Section 24.5.4.

While Section 24.5.2.1 of the EIS reported that Taroom may experience an estimated increase in the residential population of about 29 people during the construction of the dam, and 36 people during pipeline construction, it is acknowledged that these numbers are overestimates, influenced by factors including:

- an assumption that there would generally be greater activity in and around Taroom due to other project developments which had the potential to encourage general growth and in-migration;
- the lack of availability of locally or regionally based construction crews as large-scale construction in the region was limited at the time; and
- an understanding that workers were less comfortable with commuting, shift-based employment which is currently the standard on similar construction projects in the region.

In relation to the pipeline, experience indicates that the construction workforces engaged on recent SunWater projects (e.g. Woleebee Creek to Glebe Weir Pipeline) showed a high level of mobility due to the short construction timeframes and constant movement of the pipeline workfronts, and demonstrated that workers are not relocating to site with their families. As such, SunWater anticipates that no persons are expected to move into local towns during pipeline construction, resulting in negligible impact on local social infrastructure and community services.

During dam construction, a very small number of people are expected to move into local towns which will have very little impact on health, child care, or education services. However, SunWater will continue to engage with the Department of Health and the Department of State Development to provide updated employment forecasts to assist in future planning. Additional actions to manage impacts on community services and infrastructure are also outlined in the SIMP framework (Table 24-47 of the EIS).

As indicated in Section 24.5.6.2, the proposed FIFO/ DIDO workforce arrangements would limit many potential impacts on community services provision, particularly as emergency aid and medical facilities will be provided to the workforce in accordance with the Work Place Health and Safety Guidelines and the selected contractor's Site Safety Plan. Trained first aid staff will also be present at the active construction site and accommodation camp.

In Section 24.6.2 and Table 24-40 of the EIS SunWater committed to participate in various relevant regional planning and consultative initiatives and this is repeated here. If a financial contribution to a regional mitigation strategy is an outcome of such discussions, SunWater will consider it on the basis of its relevance to the project and to the projects proportional contribution to the regional impact.

The comment in relation to Wandoan Railway Station is noted. Section 24.3.10.3 of the EIS described the actual current public transport network.

## **24.7. Housing and workforce accommodation**

A number of submissions identified the need for a more comprehensive assessment of the Project's impacts on local housing availability and affordability. Impacts on housing and accommodation were described in Section 24.5.5 of the EIS.

The majority of workers for both the dam and pipeline would be accommodated in worker accommodation villages, which would assist in managing demand for local housing. SunWater anticipates, based on recent experience on construction projects that no workers for the pipeline will choose to reside in the local area.

For construction of the dam, a small number of workers may choose to reside in Taroom. In these instances rental accommodation or purchase of existing properties may be required. As identified in the SIA, Taroom has some, though limited capacity to support additional families moving into the area; however, the small number of workers likely to relocate means the Project's contribution to cumulative demands on local housing availability and affordability will be minor. The mitigation and management of cumulative impacts across Queensland and the Surat Basin is an issue that requires detailed consideration by all project proponents in the area. As noted in the EIS SunWater will align with and contribute to existing government and industry initiatives that are being implemented to deal more holistically with cumulative impacts.

The framework to minimise impacts on local housing and disturbance to local residential communities is provided Section 24.9.3 of the EIS.

Two submissions requested for the site of the worker's accommodation camp to be located at least 20 km away from town, with one suggesting it was located near the dam. The reasoning behind the location of the worker's accommodation camp was adequately reported in Section 24.5.5 of the EIS. Table 24-48 of the EIS detailed SunWater and local government commitment to appropriately situate construction camps outside of local townships to minimise impacts on residents. The exact locations of the worker accommodation camps will be determined by the relevant contractor in consultation with the local councils and other relevant agencies through the development application and planning processes. SunWater is not requesting approval of the camps as part of the EIS process.

#### **24.8. Community values, health and well-being**

A number of submissions identified the need for strategies to be developed to enhance the health and well-being of the workforce and affected communities and to uphold the community values in the study area.

Impacts on community values were discussed in Section 24.5.9 of the EIS, while the SIMP framework outlined actions to maximise opportunities for the workforce to contribute positively to community cohesion and development (Table 24-48 of the EIS). Policies and procedures to be developed and implemented by both SunWater and its contractors to promote positive community culture, health and safety for employees, and positive interaction with the local communities were listed in Section 24.9.2 of the EIS.

SunWater helps to support regional communities through sponsorship and education initiatives with activities and events developed to reinforce positive commitment to regional communities. SunWater will liaise with the local councils prior to construction to discuss potential sponsorship opportunities for the regional community.

#### **24.9. Water availability**

A submission noted concern about the social impacts of changes to water availability.

The potential social impacts of changes to water availability were adequately described in Section 24.5.3.2 of the EIS.

#### **24.10. Land purchase preference to affected landholder**

Two submissions noted concern regarding property requirements and potential stresses on landholders. As noted in Section 2.4.1.1 of the EIS, SunWater or the State will negotiate in good faith to minimise impacts and stress placed on landholders affected by the Project. Part of those negotiations could involve purchase or lease of affected adjoining or nearby properties if the landholders of those other properties have chosen to vacate the property.



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