

Paradise Dam

Fact Sheet: Environmental assessment and planning approval process – Ministerial Infrastructure Designation

November 2022

Background

Paradise Dam will be returned to its original height, as part of significant safety improvement works.

Sunwater has a dedicated and growing team of professionals preparing for works at the dam. One of the key activities underway is progressing the work required for environment and planning approvals. The Paradise Dam Improvement Project (PDIP) and associated enabling works (including road upgrades, development of a workers' camp and quarry investigations to inform where materials can be sourced) will require a range of approvals from local, State and Federal governments.

This Fact Sheet shares information about the application Sunwater will make for a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (Infrastructure Designation) over land at, and adjacent to, Paradise Dam.

What is an Infrastructure Designation?

An Infrastructure Designation allows the Queensland Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP), the Planning Minister, to designate land for development of essential infrastructure and services.

Specific types of infrastructure eligible for designation are detailed in the *Planning Regulation 2017*.

All documents supporting a request for an Infrastructure Designation are included in a single Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which refers to both the built and natural environment of the subject land.

Sunwater has appointed independent environmental consultants, Epic Environmental Pty Ltd (Epic), to prepare the EAR for the PDIP. The purpose of the EAR is to:

- describe the subject land and its surrounds
- assess potential impacts of the Project on the subject land
- identify avoidance and management measures to mitigate these potential impacts.

Why are approvals required when the dam is being returned to its original height?

The PDIP includes extensive works to strengthen and stabilise the dam and will require significant materials to be transported to site.

Figure 1 (over page) shows the area of interest for the Infrastructure Designation, which is largely land acquired when the dam was originally built or land where Sunwater has an existing water storage easement. The footprint of the dam structure will increase, and the land area required for construction work will be greater than that used when the dam was first built.

The existing Infrastructure Designation (originally approved in 2002) must be updated to reflect the new work and project footprint. This process also provides an opportunity for stakeholders to review the proposal and provide comment.

What is assessed in a proposal for an Infrastructure Designation?

The requirements for requesting a designation are set out in the *Planning Act 2016* and the Planning Minister's Rules and Guidelines v1.1 (which falls under the *Planning Act 2016*).

The EAR will include:

- a response to the criteria for requesting an Infrastructure Designation, outlined under the *Planning Act 2016*
- a description of the proposed development
- construction drawings/plans
- potential impacts from the development and how they would be addressed (e.g., noise, traffic)
- potential impacts on State interests or holdings (e.g., state-controlled roads)
- matters raised by councils
- documents to be distributed during the formal consultation period
- a summary of any consultation meetings which are to be held.

A proposal for an Infrastructure Designation goes through a high level, principle-based assessment process. The assessment is focused on the direct impacts that the Project will have on neighbouring properties, stakeholders, and infrastructure, rather than particulars of local planning instruments such as planning scheme codes and policies.

Key activities

Environmental assessment to inform the EAR has commenced. The key steps in the Infrastructure Designation process are shown in Figure 2, below.

Sunwater is progressing work to target Infrastructure Designation lodgement in late 2022 to facilitate commencement of works at the dam in 2024.



Figure 2: Key steps in the Infrastructure Designation process

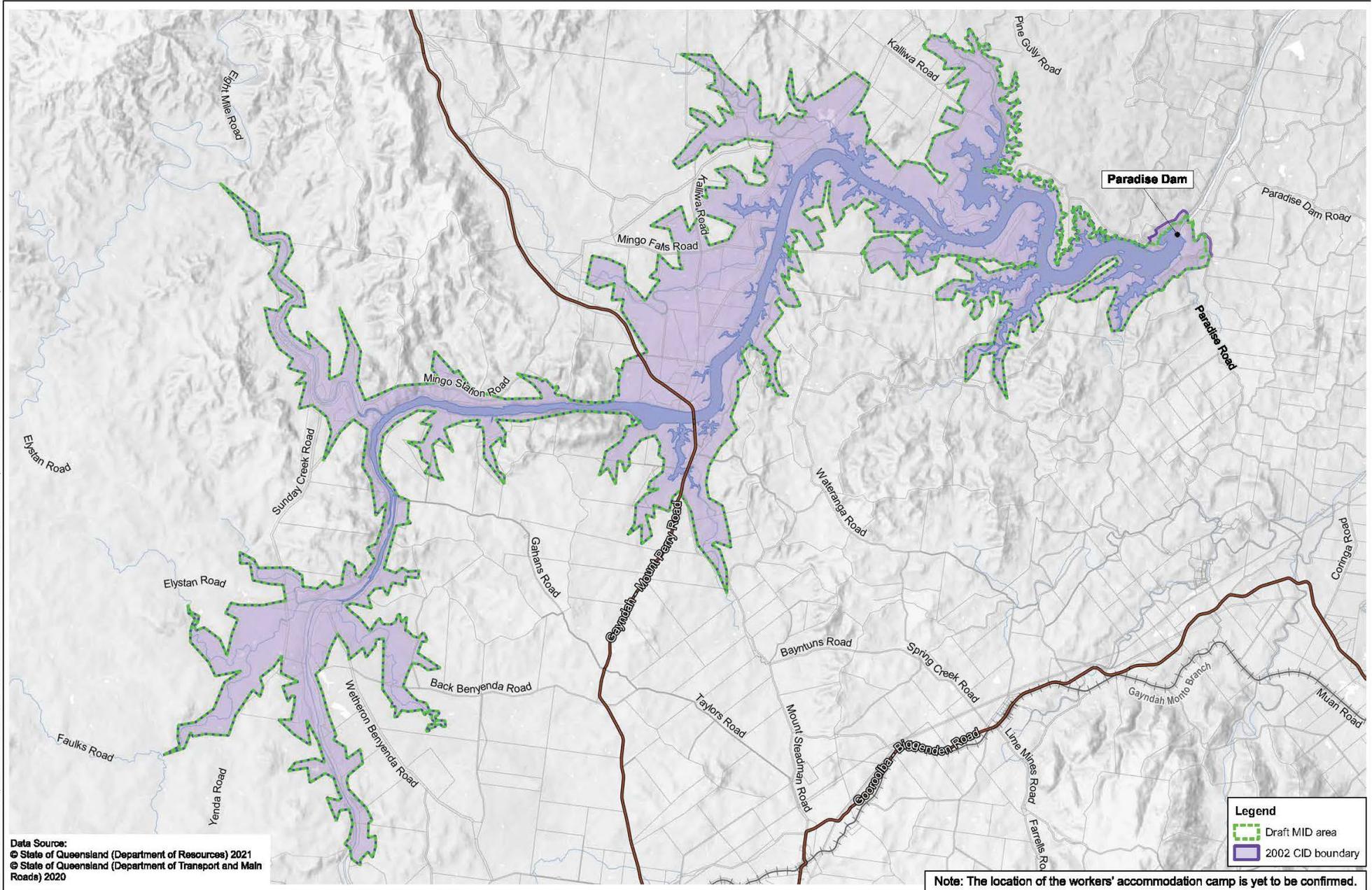


Figure 1: Infrastructure Designation area

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Consultation for Infrastructure Designation

Sunwater is committed to ongoing engagement with our customers and the broader community to ensure transparency during planning for and implementation of the PDIP.

Consultation before the proposal is lodged:	Consultation once the proposal is lodged:
<p>Under the Infrastructure Designation process, Sunwater is required to undertake engagement with key stakeholders, including councils and the local community. This is to provide an early awareness of the project and an opportunity to provide feedback. Sunwater is sharing this fact sheet as part of that process. Specific meetings and information sessions will also be conducted.</p>	<p>Once the proposal is lodged, it will be made publicly available on DSDILGP's website. Sunwater will then conduct further engagement and respond to questions and feedback. The Planning Minister is responsible for undertaking formal public consultation after lodgement. This consultation is generally a 20-business day period (or longer over holiday periods) and includes placing signs on the land, a notice in local media, and letters from the Planning Minister to surrounding landowners and key stakeholders.</p>

Ongoing project engagement

As work progresses, we will continue to share updates with the Paradise Dam Reference Group that includes representatives from local government, peak bodies, customers, Traditional Owners and downstream residents. Information is also regularly shared on Sunwater's Paradise Dam [Facebook page](#) and the [project webpages](#) on the Sunwater website.

Questions?

Please contact us on 3120 0270 or paradise.dam@sunwater.com.au with any questions about this project. For general enquiries, please contact customer support by phone on 13 15 89 or live chat via sunwater.com.au, Monday-Friday 8.30am-4.30pm.