

OUR WATER STORY, IS YOUR WATER STORY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline approval secures water reliability for Gladstone

The Queensland Government has approved the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline for construction, which will provide greater long-term water security to Gladstone's industry and support ongoing economic development in the region.

The \$983 million pipeline will be owned and managed by Gladstone Area Water Board and constructed by McConnell Dowell BMD Joint Venture (JV), with works expected to commence from early 2023.

The 117-kilometre pipeline, which will run from the Lower Fitzroy River in Rockhampton and connect to Gladstone Area Water Board's existing water network at Yarwun, will also support the emerging hydrogen and renewables sector that is set to expand in Gladstone.

Gladstone Area Water Board's Chief Executive Officer, Darren Barlow, said the Queensland Government's decision to approve the pipeline for construction reflected the region's importance to the state's economy.

"The announcement by Premier Palaszczuk and Minister Butcher is pivotal in securing water for Gladstone's industry and will support the hydrogen and renewables industry, as well as help sustain the Queensland economy and provide jobs, and I thank the Queensland Government for their decision," Mr Barlow said.

"Water security has been an ongoing, critical issue for Gladstone due to the single source water supply risk from Awoonga Dam, which resulted in a Low Supply Alert Declaration being issued in April 2021 following continued failed wet seasons.

"As owner of the project, we look forward to the JV engaging with local suppliers to deliver tangible benefits to the Gladstone region such as jobs, supply contracts and local capability raising."

Gladstone Area Water Board was appointed by the Queensland Government in August 2021 to deliver pre-construction activities for the pipeline which included procurement, land access arrangements, approvals and determining long lead time items to ensure construction readiness for the pipeline.

Mr Barlow praised the team for its work in successfully preparing for project approval.

"Since 2021, our team has been delivering an extensive program of pre-construction works and their commitment and dedication means we're very well positioned heading into construction," Mr Barlow said.

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“We’re very excited to continue our work on this important project and start construction with McConnell Dowell BMD Joint Venture, who demonstrated to us during the extensive procurement process that they are best placed to build the pipeline.

“The pipeline will allow us to access our water allocation from Rookwood Weir and will contribute to our vision of delivering safe and reliable water services to enhance the livability of our region, as well as the sustainability of our state through hydrogen and renewables.”

The Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline is expected to be delivered in 2026, weather and construction conditions permitting, creating more than 400 jobs at the peak of construction.

Once constructed, the pipeline and associated infrastructure will be owned and managed by Gladstone Area Water Board.

For more information about the project visit gawb.qld.gov.au and search ‘Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline’.

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