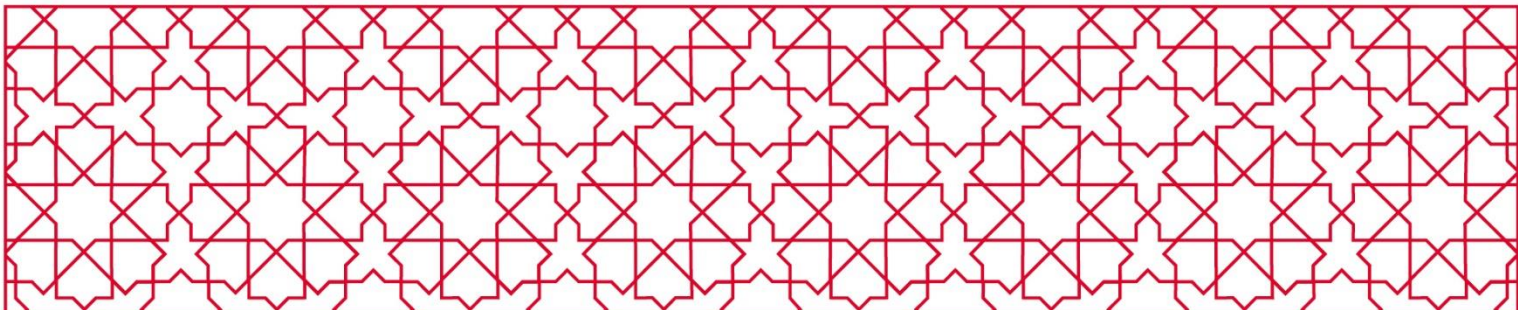


Leisa Prowse
CONSULTING

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group Meeting 1

November 2024



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1 Introduction

The first meeting of the re-established Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Somerset Dam Improvement Project (SDIP) was held on Thursday 28 November 2024. The meeting was held at the Somerset General Store between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

1.1 Workshop purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- introduce CRG members and the project team
- build understanding about the Somerset Dam Improvement Project
- discuss success factors for the CRG.

1.2 Attendees

Meeting 1 was attended by nine CRG members:

- Rosemarie Allen
- Christine Haynes
- Bebe Jecis
- David Kenneally
- Gary Love
- Tim Mason
- Don McConnell
- Dale Sinclair
- Vicki Sweedman.

Apologies were received from Bronwyn Davies.

The workshop was also attended by five members of the project team, including:

- two Leisa Prowse Consulting (LPC) representatives
- three Seqwater representatives.

2 Welcome and introductions

Seqwater and LPC welcomed CRG members to the first CRG meeting for the SDIP project and outlined the meeting purpose. The LPC facilitator invited the CRG members to provide a short introduction about themselves, including:

- why they live or work in the Somerset region
- their personal connection to Lake Somerset
- why the Somerset Dam Improvement Project is important to them
- why they were interested in being part of the CRG.

The nine CRG members, and their interests, included:

- Don McConnell, whose family was one of the original settling families in the area in the late 1800s. Don grew up in the area and attended school here. Don has a long history in the community and was a member of the original CRG.
- David Kenneally, who owns the Somerset General Store. David has owned a house in the village for 14 years and bought the General Store 2 years ago. The store is the only retail

business in the village. David is interested in the project and how it may impact his operations with respect to staffing and inventory. He would like to support the project and community.

- Gary Love, who has lived in the Somerset Region for nearly 12 years and is working for Somerset Regional Council. Gary is interested in keeping the Council updated about the project and CRG. He works around Lake Somerset and the village every day. Gary wanted to be involved in the CRG in a personal capacity, and to understand the project given the importance of Lake Somerset for the region.
- Dale Sinclair, who lives in Fernvale. Dale was a member of the original CRG, where he represented the Somerset Wivenhoe Fish Stocking Association (SWFSA) and recreational anglers. SWFSA stock Mary River Cod into several rivers and creeks in South East Queensland, including in Lake Somerset, as part of the Brisbane River Cod Recovery Project. Dale enjoyed being a member of the original CRG, and would like to continue his involvement in the project.
- Tim Mason, who lives in Woodford, near the eastern point of the lake. Tim is interested in recreational fishing, and was involved in the Kilcoy Fishing Club. Tim is involved in the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and is working as a business accountant. Tim was interested in joining the CRG to learn more about the logistics of how the lake is used and to understand the project given the importance of Lake Somerset for the region.
- Vicki Sweedman, who is currently living in Caboolture and in the process of building a new home in Villeneuve. Vicki is a proud Wakka Wakka woman, and was interested in being a member of the CRG to understand how the project is considering the First Nations history of the area and connection with the lake.
- Christine Haynes, who is a Fire Warden for the Rural Fire Brigade for Mount Brisbane. Christine was a member of the CRG. Christine was the previous owner of the shop and still lives in the area. Christine mentioned that the fire shed is in the village.
- Bebe Jecis, who runs a local business for weddings and events. Bebe was a member of the original CRG, and joined to understand how the project may impact local businesses and small businesses. Bebe is also a landowner in Crossdale. Bebe is interested in understanding the long-term plan for the lake and dam, potential impacts on the local community and flooding.
- Rosemarie Allen, who has owned property in the area for the past 22 years and now lives locally full-time. Rosemarie is on the Somerset Dam and Districts Progress Association, and is very connected with the village. Rosemarie was interested in joining the CRG to hear about the project from the project team, and pass along information to the Progress Association.

3 Terms of Reference

Before the Terms of Reference for the CRG were discussed, the facilitator provided a quick summary of the previous CRG and the meetings held in 2020.

The summary explained that:

- The CRG established in 2020 had 12 members representing a range of local interests. Some of those members are part of the re-established CRG.
- Six meetings were held in 2020. Three were in-person before the COVID-19 lockdowns, and 3 were online after the lockdowns.
- The previous CRG was focused on developing and implementing a voluntary Social Impact Management Plan or SIMP for the SDIP, which at the time was known as the Somerset Dam Upgrade Project.
- Each meeting focused on the following topics:
 - recreation, tourism, cultural heritage and community cohesion and identity
 - liveability impacts including noise, dust, vibration, dam safety and health

- employment and business opportunities, property cost and availability and worker's camp
- roads and traffic impacts
- legacy projects.
- The meetings were designed to capture information in relation to each of these topics. This information was then used by Seqwater to draft the voluntary SIMP and provide useful information during the ongoing development of the Detailed Business Case.
- The preparation of the SIMP was put on hold due to changing design considerations and subsequent revisions of the Detailed Business Case.
- Seqwater will proceed to develop a version of the SIMP which will be a living document on the project website. It will aim to reflect the information gathered during previous CRG workshops as well as any updated information captured during this CRG.

The facilitator provided a short overview of key points in the CRG Terms of Reference developed by Seqwater. Key points in the Terms of Reference that were highlighted included:

- The role of the CRG, which is to:
 - provide a formal channel for the community to be directly involved in identifying project impacts and benefits and determining mitigation (or management) measures
 - help Seqwater monitor and respond to social impacts during early enabling works and construction and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures
 - work collaboratively with Seqwater to provide input to appropriate sections of the Detailed Business Case
 - build on information provided by the former CRG.
- The scope of issues and impacts to be monitored relate to:
 - community amenity
 - recreational facilities
 - natural environment
 - social values and impacts
 - water supply
 - history and cultural heritage
 - business and economic impacts.
- The key objectives of the CRG are to:
 - help build community understanding of the project by sharing information with local networks
 - provide a forum for members to discuss and share issues of community interest related to the project
 - draw on local knowledge about how Somerset Dam and surrounding areas are used by the community and visitors
 - identify the positive and negative impacts of the project on community interests
 - provide Seqwater with relevant and timely community feedback to help address issues and leverage opportunities resulting from the project
 - provide Seqwater with a sense of community perceptions and understanding about the project.
- The requirements for members of the group, which are to:
 - treat each other with respect and not speak over each other
 - allow other people to be heard and listen respectfully
 - protect the privacy of other group members and treat them with respect when discussing the project or the CRG with others
 - consider all relevant information during the discussion in meetings
 - consider other people's point of view
 - act reasonably, with honesty and in good faith

- undertake agreed actions within the specified timeframes
- attend all meetings and site tours or provide your apologies
- share information about the project with other community members and bring community feedback to CRG meetings.
- Additional matters, including:
 - participation is voluntary
 - the CRG is not a decision-making group and consensus is not required
 - the CRG aims to represent a diverse range of community viewpoints
 - the need to represent your community or stakeholder group's views in the room
 - members must not speak to the media on behalf of the group without Seqwater's authorisation
 - no proxies will be accepted
 - if you cannot attend a meeting, let Seqwater know that you are an apology.
- Seqwater will:
 - provide at least 2 weeks of notice for meetings
 - provide sufficient information for CRG members to participate
 - invite representatives from local, state, federal government agencies, contractors or subject matter experts to join meetings when appropriate
 - follow-up requests for additional information
 - prepare and distribute meeting notes within 14 days
 - publish workshop presentations and high-level meeting notes on the project's webpage
 - consider and respond to all feedback and suggestions raised in the group
 - review CRG roles, membership and operation annually.

The facilitator also outlined some meeting guidelines for each meeting, which included:

- remove distractions (i.e. devices on silent or flight mode)
- arrive prepared
- declare your Conflicts of Interest
- treat each other and each other's ideas with respect
- allow other people to be heard
- listen to each other so that create a productive meeting environment.
- one conversation at a time
- share your thoughts professionally, respectfully and in a civil manner
- commit to frank and honest discussion and feedback that considers all of the relevant information
- be curious
- be succinct and build on the conversation
- say what you need to say i.e. do not leave the room with things unsaid
- act reasonably with good faith
- protect the privacy of other group members in all that you do outside the room.

The facilitator asked CRG members if they had any guidelines they would like to add to this list. CRG members suggested:

- have fun
- be constructive and try to focus on outcomes to issues
- be open and honest.

4 Project overview

Seqwater provided an overview of the project, which included:

- history of the project
- overview of the detailed business case
- early and enabling works
- an overview of recent community and stakeholder engagement.

The project update presentation is included at Appendix A.

4.1 Discussion

Following the project update, some CRG members had questions. CRG members discussed the questions they had in pairs and wrote them on sticky notes. Each group then asked the project team one question. Questions were answered by project team representatives.

The questions and observations from the Group related to:

- whether the project includes raising the height of the dam wall, and how this would change the water level of Lake Somerset
- whether the project would require acquiring additional freehold land
- how traffic would be managed on Stanley Pocket Road, given that school buses travel on this road, and that there are existing issues at the Wivenhoe Somerset Road and Stanley Pocket Road intersection
- concerns about safety on Stanley Pocket Road, especially considering the school bus route and higher use for people travelling to Camp Somerset
- how the project will consider labour availability and cost, given the other major projects occurring in the area.

The project team provided the following information in response to the questions and observations.

- The project team confirmed that the project does include raising the height of the dam wall. The purpose of the project is to help address dam safety risks and strengthen the wall to meet modern engineering standards. The project will ultimately reduce the risk of a dam failure during rare, very extreme flood events. Raising the height of the dam wall supports the dam's ability to continue operating during very high impact flood events.
- The project team are continuing to investigate options for a freehold site that would contain a new saddle dam. A saddle dam is a smaller dam structure aimed at filling 'low points' on the dam's perimeter. Saddle dams are areas that would generally be dry under normal conditions, but would fill in very high impact flood events. This site was identified as the one low point that could be inundated in those situations. Seqwater is in discussion with this owner.
- The project team have raised the Stanley Pocket Road intersection with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. An intersection upgrade would require necessary approvals. The project team anticipate that Stanley Pocket Road would have minimal traffic during construction, apart from the saddle dam component of work. Work on the saddle dam is estimated to take 6-9 months and will require some material to be brought in. The project team will develop a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) for the project that will consider this intersection and a safety review. The road condition will be documented before and after construction, with any issues caused by the construction process being rectified to the original state.
- The project team agree and understand that labour availability is a risk. The project team have completed the first round of engagement with potential contractors and quarries, and are looking at international options for resources as well as local. For a project of this scale, contractors may deliver as a joint venture which could include international partners.

Additional questions that CRG members wrote on sticky notes were:

- With Cressbrook and Borumba kicking off in the area at the same time will this affect labour and costs?
- Will you have to buy any land?
- Old quarry site? Will it be used as a quarry?
- What is the life of the new dam wall?
- Can the tower be kept?
- Stanley Pocket Road: traffic and widening, school buses, local and camp Somerset.
- Wivenhoe Somerset Road traffic management widening.
- Dam wall height. Does that mean greater water holding capacity?
- How will leases be affected?
- Are you going ahead with coffer dam on Stanley Pocket Road?
- How can you not raise spillway?
- Leases impacted?

5 Format of meetings

The format of ongoing CRG meetings was discussed, including points of focus for Meeting 2 and Meeting 3.

Meeting 2 will be held in early 2025, and will focus on:

- the purpose of the dam (both upstream and downstream)
- the works
- potential impacts of construction and possible mitigation measures
- beginning the conversation about flooding and climate change.

Meeting 3 will be held in mid-2025, and will focus on:

- continuing the conversation about flooding and climate change.
- beginning the conversation about legacy projects.

The project team commented that they will aim to send out agendas to CRG members before each meeting. The project team will also update CRG members about the focus of ongoing meetings at Meeting 3.

6 CRG Success

CRG members were moved into 3 small groups of 3 people to discuss what success would look like for them throughout CRG workshop process. Prompt questions for this discussion included:

- Why were the CRG meetings a success overall?
- What happened?
- What didn't happen?
- What information did you share with the community? How did you share it?
- What did you learn?
- What information did you share with Seqwater?

Project team members acted as a scribe for each of the groups, and captured the following success factors.

- Legacy recreation project
- Benefit to community
- Disruptions are limited
- Let people know about how the change will look
- Inform project team about traffic and impacts on traffic management
- Upstream community is heard and included – access, isolation
- Farmers are happy
- Road upgrades
- Dam wall walk
- History on display (legacy)
- Walking tracks
- Low impacts and traffic
- Positive impacts on local businesses both short and long-term
- In person meetings
- No impact on recreation and weddings. Weekend accommodation still available for wedding guests 100 pax as it's getting back to normal bookings post-COVID.
- Contribution to the project have had an influence on direction
- CRG as a point of contact between the project and the village or community
- Long term security to population upstream regarding flooding (reassurance)
- Increase benefit to the village
- Maintain the 'look and feel' of the village and but improve exposure.

Many of the success factors identified by CRG members related to potential project outcomes rather than the CRG process. Those success factors that related specifically to the CRG process related to:

- visually communicating the change to help community members understand it
- informing the project team, specifically about traffic impacts and traffic management
- involving upstream community members
- holding meetings in-person
- making a contribution to the project and having an influence on decisions made by the project team
- being a point of contact between the project team and the community.

7 Close

To close-out the workshop, the facilitator asked CRG members to share their key takeaways from Meeting 1. These key takeaways were:

- overall water level not rising
- water level will be restored to its original full supply level at project completion
- not all construction traffic will come through the village
- timeframe – deliver by October 2035
- traffic impacts are being taken seriously
- tours might be coming back.

CRG members also raised that if meetings were to be longer than 2 hours in the future, they would prefer timing to be 4:00pm to 7:00pm on weekdays.

Appendix A: Presentation

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

Community Reference Group
Meeting 1

Thursday 28 November 2024



Introductions

Welcome to the Somerset CRG

Introductions

Take up to two minutes each and tell us:

- why you live or work in the Somerset region
- your personal connection to Lake Somerset
- what is important to you about the Somerset Dam Improvement Project
- why you wanted to be part of the CRG.

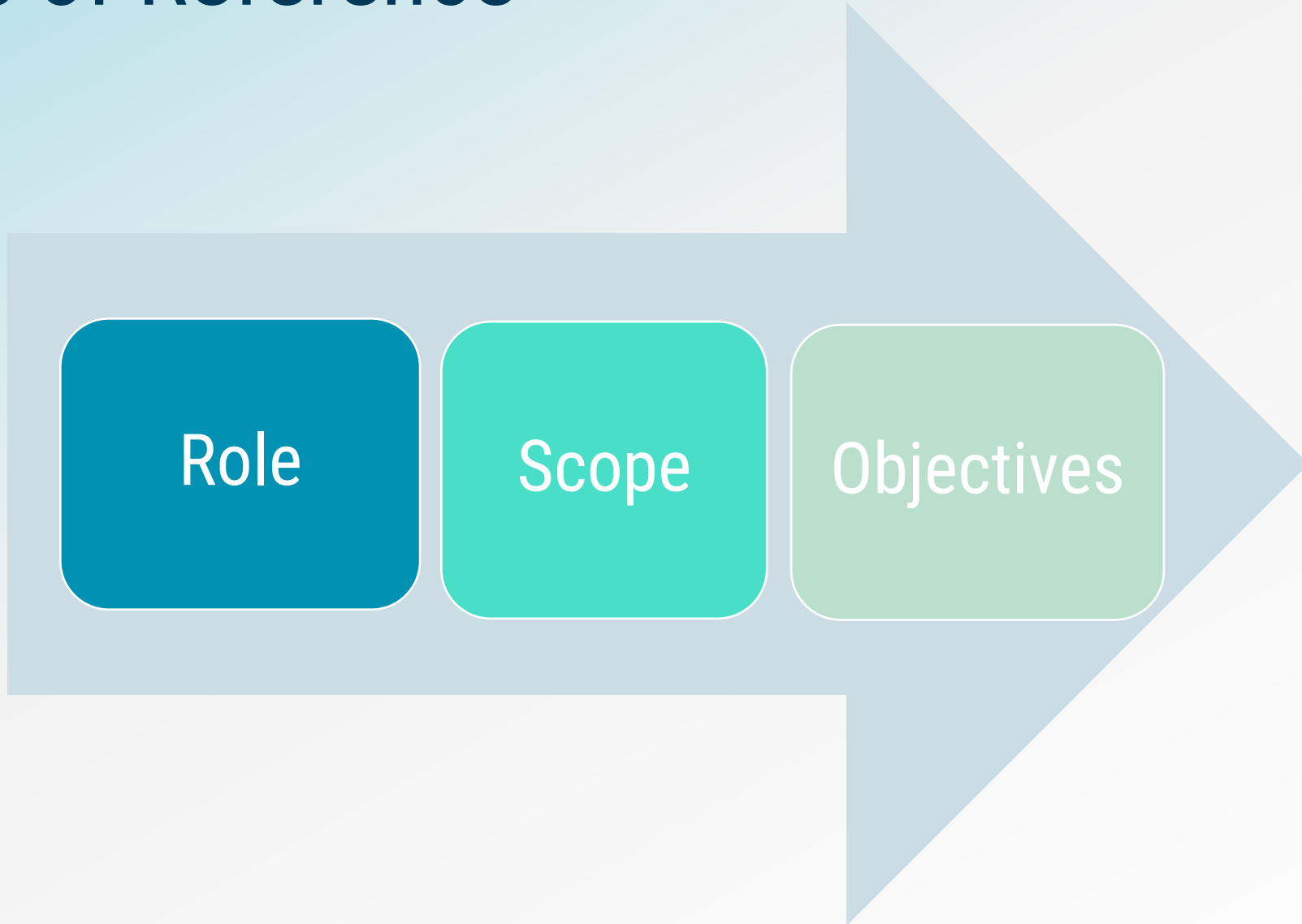
Terms of Reference

Former Community Reference Group

1. CRG and SIMP overview
2. Recreation, tourism, cultural heritage and community cohesion and identity
3. Liveability impacts including noise, dust, vibration, dam safety and health
4. Employment and business opportunities, property cost and availability and worker's camp
5. Roads and traffic impacts
6. Legacy projects



Terms of Reference



CRG objectives

Key objectives of the Somerset Dam Improvement Project CRG will be to:

- build community understanding of the Somerset Dam Improvement Project by encouraging members to share information with their local networks.
- provide a forum for members to discuss and share issues of community interest related to the project.
- draw on local knowledge about how Somerset Dam and surrounding areas are used by the community and visitors.
- identify the positive and negative impacts of the project on community interests.
- provide Seqwater with relevant and timely community feedback to assist in addressing issues and opportunities resulting from the project.
- provide Seqwater with a sense of community perceptions and understanding about the project.

Meeting guidelines

- Remove distractions.
- Arrive prepared.
- Declare your Conflicts of Interest.
- Treat each other and each other's ideas with respect.
- Allow other people to be heard.
- Listen to each other. We need a balance of listening and speaking for a productive meeting environment.
- One conversation at a time. Do not speak over each other.
- Share your thoughts professionally, respectfully and in a civil manner.
- Commit to frank and honest discussion and feedback that considers all relevant information.
- Be curious. Consider other people's perspectives.
- Be succinct and build on the conversation.
- Say what you need to say i.e. don't leave the room with things unsaid.
- Act reasonably with good faith.
- Protect the privacy of other group members in all that you do outside the room.

Somerset Dam Improvement Project

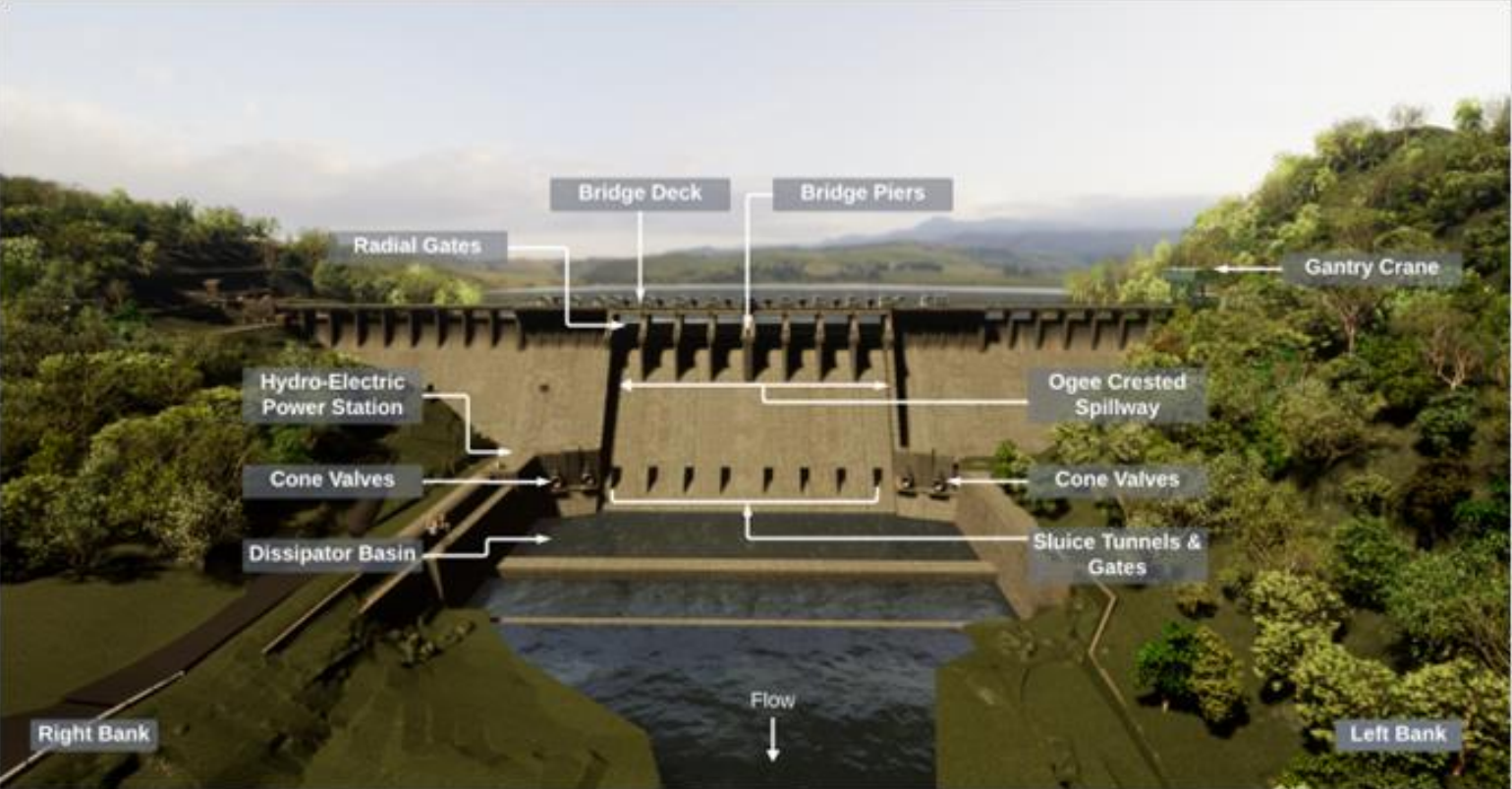
Project overview

Dam Improvement Program

- Dams are long-life assets which require continual assessment, monitoring and maintenance.
- Methodologies and data used to estimate extreme rainfall events have significantly improved and industry engineering standards and risks have progressed since dams were originally built.
- Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program will improve dam safety and water security for years to come. Upgrades are required to be completed by 1 October 2035 and planning is well underway.
- 13 dam upgrades already delivered. Four major upgrades are underway:
 - Lake Macdonald Dam – early works underway, with construction to commence in 2025
 - North Pine Dam – staged strengthening works to commence in 2025, with the main upgrade in options analysis phase
 - Wivenhoe Dam – in options analysis phase
 - Somerset Dam – early and enabling works to commence 2025, with main upgrade in business case phase



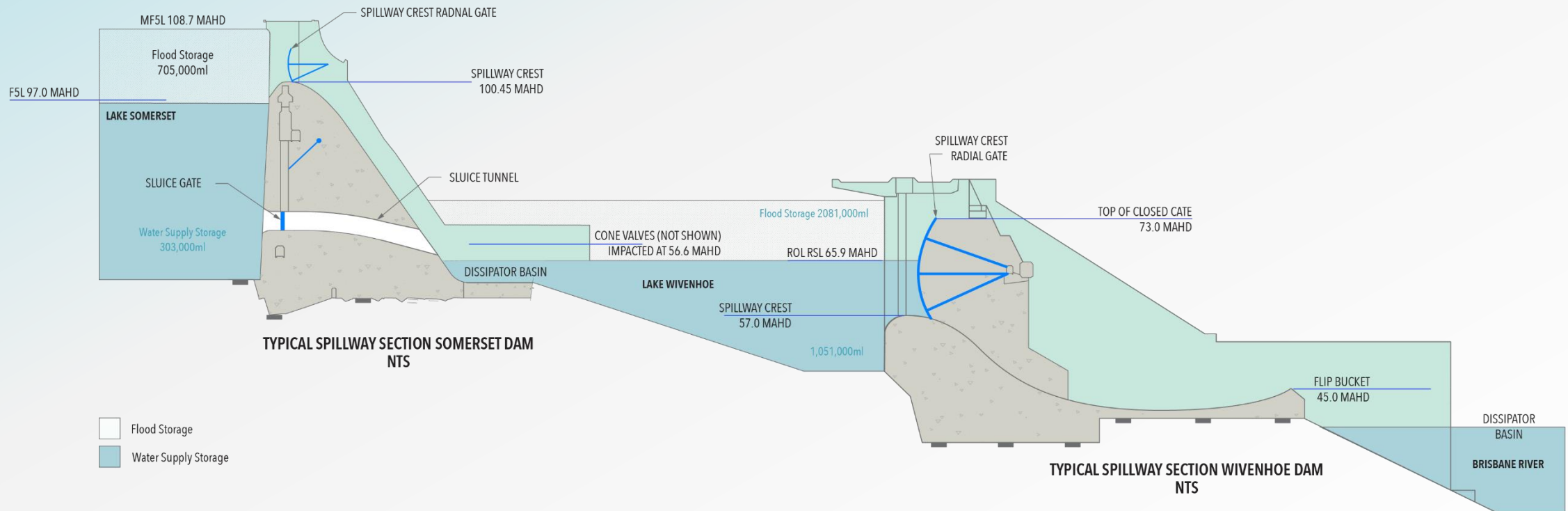
Somerset Dam - Existing



- Existing dam is a mass concrete gravity dam with a gated spillway, 305m long, 58m high, and 22 monoliths impounding the Stanley River.
- Critical to the region’s water security, Somerset and Wivenhoe Dams are both multi-purpose dams that account for more than 70 percent of dam water supplied to the SEQ Water Grid.

Project Driver

- In response to dam safety regulator compliance, the Somerset Dam Improvement Project (SDIP) was initiated in 2016 .
- The primary benefit is dam safety regulatory compliance through improved dam safety.
- In addressing these needs, Seqwater intends to restore the dam to the original full supply level.



Funding

A **two-stage** investment approach has been adopted:

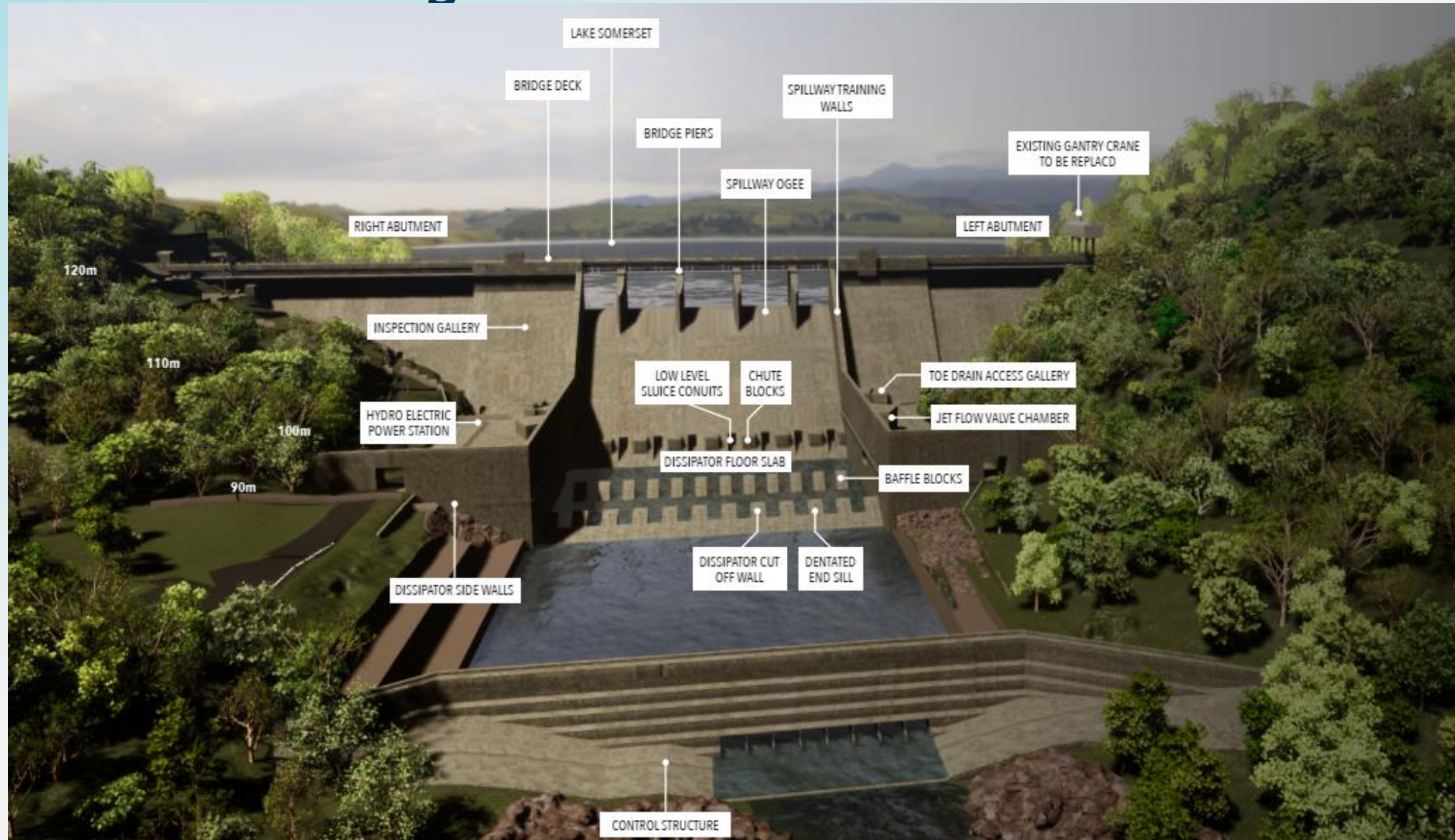
1. A short form business case document was submitted to the Queensland Government for the SDIP Early and Enabling works. The investment approval by responsible Ministers, received in June 2024, is approximately \$515 million (includes SDIP costs to date).

These works will commence in 2025.

2. Complete the Detailed Business Case (DBC) document to include work on the final option configuration.

The hydrology and engineering underpinning the Detailed Business Case will be considerate of emerging research outcomes associated with climate change impacts upon extreme / rare flood events.

Indicative Configuration

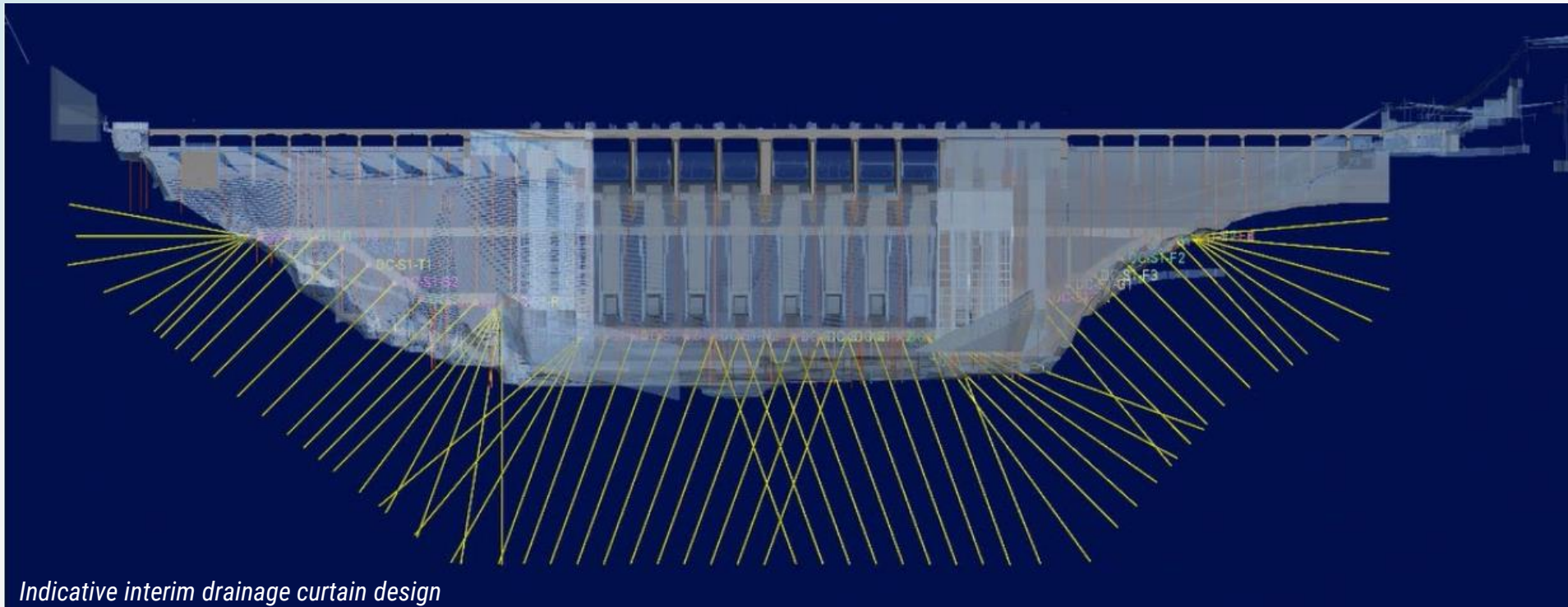


Generalised SDIP concept, key components (looking upstream), subject to further design development

Early and Enabling Works Scope

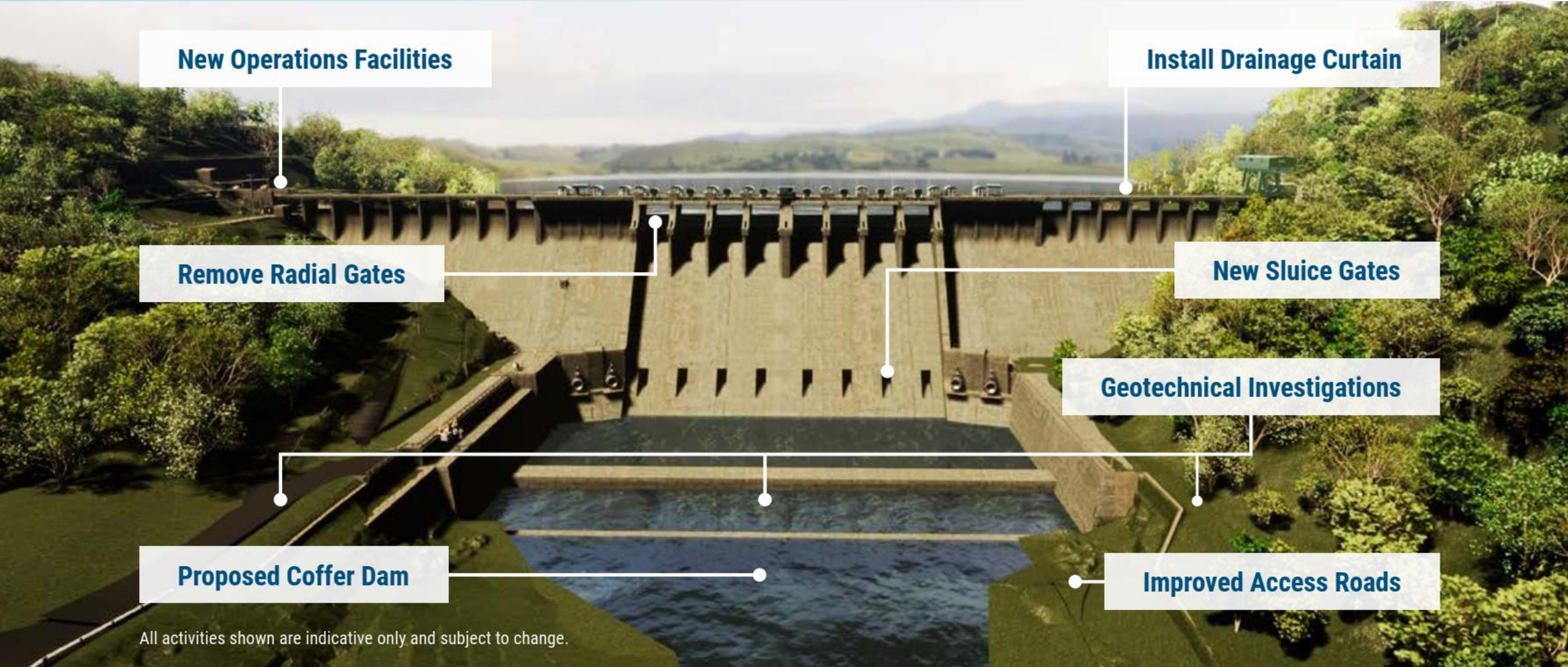
The Early and Enabling Works scope has been developed in four categories:

1. Asset renewals, removals and improvements
2. Investigations and assessments
3. Interim dam safety management measure
4. Enabling works for investigation support, outlet works upgrade and main dam works



Indicative interim drainage curtain design

Early and Enabling Works Scope



New Operations Facilities

Install Drainage Curtain

Remove Radial Gates

New Sluice Gates

Geotechnical Investigations

Proposed Cofferdam

Improved Access Roads

All activities shown are indicative only and subject to change.

Agency and Stakeholder Engagement

- Ministerial Infrastructure Designation intention
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) approval
- Local and State MP's
- Ongoing engagement with:
 - Somerset Regional Council (via working group)
 - Transport and Main Roads
 - Jinibara traditional owner group
 - Adjacent landowners
 - Local Disaster Management Group

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

2019/2020

- Six CRG sessions
- Hosted two dam tours

2024

- Newsletter
- Five community information sessions
- Reformation and first meeting of CRG
- Planning community update in early December, with information session at General Store on 11 December
- Community sentiment/awareness survey

2025 plans

- Continue CRG meetings
- Ongoing community updates
- Possible Ministerial Infrastructure Designation consultation
- EPBC consultation
- Possible booked dam tours

2024 Engagement Feedback Themes



Construction
impacts



Project
timing



Flood
mitigation



Work
opportunities



Community
reference
group



Project scope

2024 Engagement Feedback Themes



Construction
impacts



Project
timing



Flood
mitigation



Work
opportunities



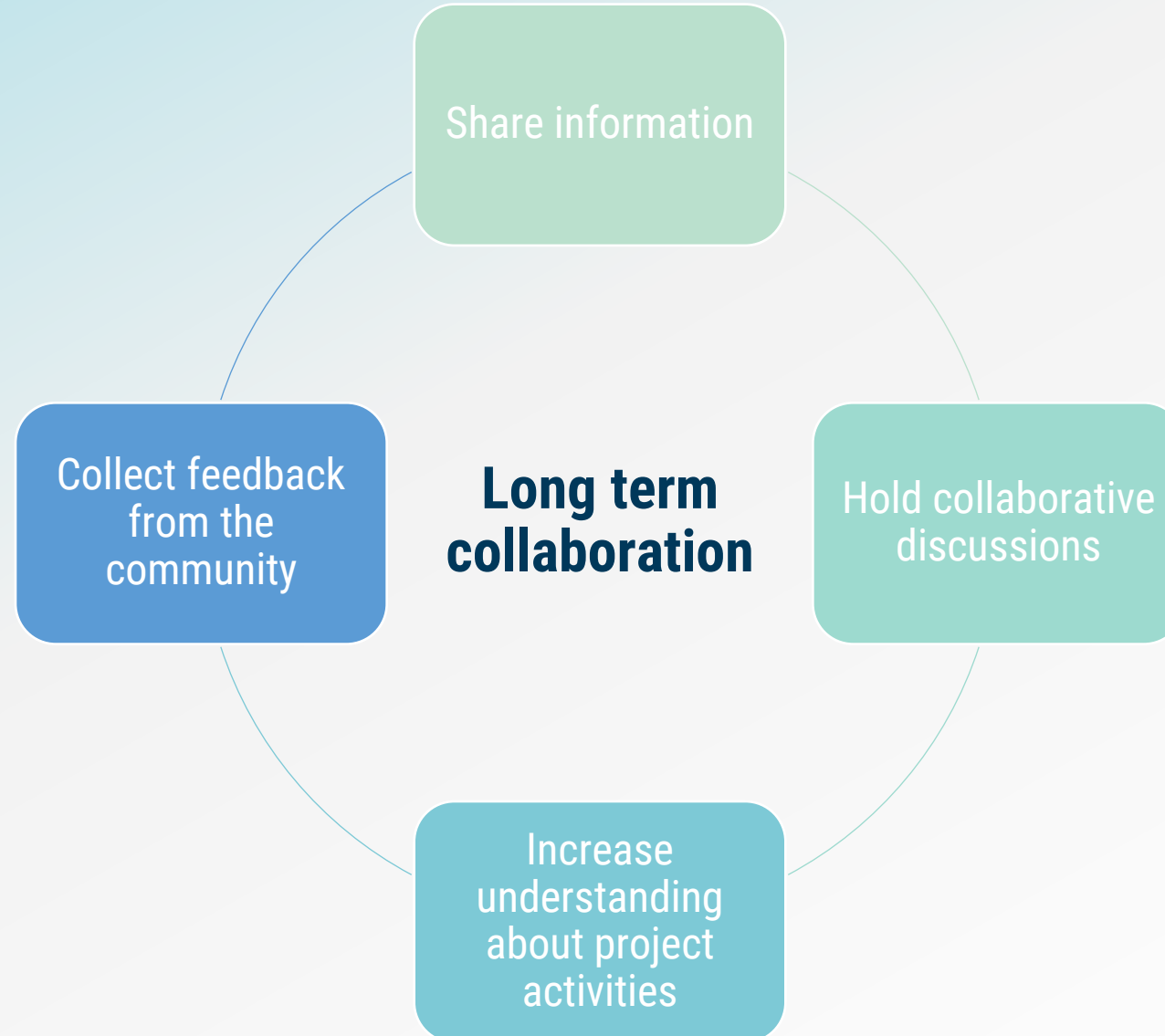
Community
reference
group



Project scope

Format of meetings

CRG Success – Seqwater perspective



CRG success – CRG perspective

Think about the future and discuss:

- Why were the CRG meetings and the CRG process a success overall? What happened? What didn't happen?
- What information did you share with the community? How did you share it?
- What did you learn?
- What information did you share with Seqwater?

Conclusion

Next meeting late March 2025

Thank you

