

Our reference: D24/113123



Department of
**Housing, Local Government,
Planning and Public Works**

2 October 2024

Longreach Regional Council ABN 16834804112
C/- Mr James Williams
Senior Planner
Precinct Urban Planning
Email: james@precinctplan.com.au

Dear Mr Williams

FURTHER REQUIREMENT NOTICE

RPI24/030: Longreach Regional Council – Thompson River Weir Project

This notice is in relation to the Longreach Regional Council's 1 February 2024 application for a Regional Interests Development Approval (RIDA) for the Thompson River Weir Project, situated within the Channel Country strategic environmental area (SEA). It is the department's understanding that this RIDA submission was made on the basis that the project constituted a regulated activity under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* (RPI Act).

As you know, to inform the department's assessment of the potential impacts of the project on the SEA's environmental attributes, a Requirement Notice was issued on 15 February 2024, and your response was submitted on 4 July 2024.

As per section 17 (1) of the RPI Act, a regulated activity within an area of regional interest is one that is likely expected to cause widespread and irreversible impacts on the area of regional interest and prescribed under a regulation for the area.

Section 11 of the Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 (RPI Regulation) identifies Water storage (dam) as a regulated activity for a SEA. Although the project fits the definition of Water storage (dam), it must also be likely to result in widespread and irreversible impacts to be considered a regulated activity.

Should the council provide information to show the project would not have widespread and irreversible impacts, it could be deemed the project is not a regulated activity and negate the need for a RIDA application. If a RIDA is required, the council is requested to address this further requirement notice.

Application details

Applicant	Longreach Regional Council ABN 16834804112
Project	Thompson River Weir Project
Description	Raising of five weirs
Area of regional interest	Channel Country SEA (Designated precinct) (SEA)
Proposed disturbance area	1.64 ha

Site details

Real property description	Lot 2 SP123565 and Lot 4 SP232181
Local government area	Longreach Regional Council

Information Requirement

Pursuant to section 44 of the RPI Act, you are advised that further information is required to assist in the assessment of the application against the assessment criteria contained in the RPI Act and the RPI Regulation.

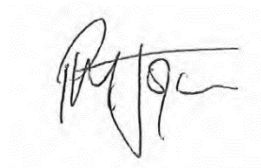
The further information required is detailed in **Attachment 1**.

The period in which the information must be provided is a maximum of three months from the date of this notice. An extension to this period may be requested if necessary.

Another requirement notice may be given if, for example, the response to this Further requirement notice does not provide sufficient information to assess and decide the application or in response to matters raised in a submission.

If you require any further information, please contact Morag Elliott, Manager, Planning Group, DHLGPPW on (07) 3452 7653 or by email at RPIAct@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Phil Joyce
Director
Development Assessment Division
Planning Group

Encl Attachment 1

ATTACHMENT 1

Further additional information requested for assessment against the SEA assessment criteria - Schedule 2 Part 5 of the RPI Regulation

Item	Channel Country SEA
1.	<p><u>Issue:</u> The application was submitted before the Channel Country SEA environmental attributes were amended under the RPI Regulation on 2 August 2024. Section 21(1) of the amended Regulation states that these new attributes apply to undecided applications that were lodged prior to the amendment's start date.</p> <p>An updated assessment, based on the attributes as of 2 August 2024, is needed. This assessment, and associated mapping, must also reflect the current spatial extent of the Channel Country SEA mapping, as at 22 December 2023, available to view at Areas of regional interest Planning and at https://qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au/.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> Provide an assessment of the proposed regulated activity in relation to the Channel Country SEA environmental attributes specified in the RPI Regulation as of 2 August 2024. Additionally, confirm whether the previous assessments included the current spatial extent of the SEA Channel Country mapping dated 22 December 2023. If not, update the application materials to reference the extent of the Channel Country SEA mapping as of 22 December 2023.</p>
2.	<p><u>Issue:</u> The Requirement notice dated 15 February 2024 sought information on the extent of impacts on riparian vegetation due to increased inundation, however, the response indicated it was not possible to precisely determine the number and location of trees.</p> <p>In addition, the mapping indicates full supply level inundation but doesn't specify the additional flooding from the proposed one-metre upgrade to the five weirs. More details are required to assess the potential environmental impacts on the area and its riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide mapping at a suitable scale that clearly shows the differences in spatial extent of area affected (additional inundation and less inundation) to result from the one metre weir upgrades, compared to the current situation and spatial extent. b) Provide details of the increased or decreased depth of inundation in the mapped areas in a) and period of time of the change in a typical year. c) Quantify in hectares, and map, the spatial extent of mapped areas in b) where existing riparian or other vegetation is not likely to survive the change to inundation.
3.	<p><u>Issue:</u> The application material suggests measures like monitoring and planting to support riparian revegetation but doesn't specify the areas for these activities.</p>

More details are needed to show whether the proposed actions will counter or mitigate a likely irreversible impact on the environment.

Actions:

- a) Provide detailed mapping at a suitable scale that clearly shows the areas to be monitored in relation to revegetation and rehabilitation of riparian zones following the completion of the works. This should include the proposed monitoring sites with their GPS coordinates.
- b) Quantify, in hectares, the likely total area where revegetation and rehabilitation is anticipated to counter an irreversible impact.