



**Queensland
Government**

Department of
**State Development,
Infrastructure and Planning**

Our ref: D25/29070

19 March 2025

Longreach Regional Council
C/-Mr James Williams
Precinct Urban Planning
email: james@precinctplan.com.au

Dear Mr Williams

DECISION NOTICE

RPI24/030 Longreach Regional Council – Thomson River Weir Project
(given under section 51 of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 (RPI Act)*)

The application for a regional interest development approval (RIDA) described below was made on 1 February 2024.

Application details

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Applicant | Longreach Regional Council |
| Subject lots | Lot 101 SP340142 (formerly Lot 2 SP123565) and Lot 4 SP232181 |
| Description | Regulated activity – Water storage (dam) |
| Area of regional interest | Channel Country Strategic Environmental Area (SEA) (Designated Precinct) |
| Assessing agencies | Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers |

Decision

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Outcome | Approved, subject to conditions |
| Date of decision | 19 March 2025 |

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Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
Website www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
ABN 29 230 178 530

Reasons for the decision

While the regulated activity does not meet the required outcome for the SEA (per Schedule 2, Part 5, section of the RPI Regulation), section 49(2) of the RPI Act provides that the Chief Executive may consider any other matter the chief executive considers relevant.

In the circumstances, the Chief Executive has considered that the provision of water security for the town of Longreach is a key consideration that warrants approval. Moreover, the proposal seeks to provide for improved infrastructure from a safety perspective, the augmentation of the existing weirs provides for additional water storage that cannot be provided in an alternative location, and the proposal seeks to minimise impacts as much as possible.

The Chief Executive has reviewed the submissions received during the public consultation period, examined the technical advice from the assessing agencies (DETSI and DLGWV), considered the recommended conditions provided by the assessing agencies, and decided that reasonable and relevant conditions can be imposed to effectively regulate the activity of water storage (dam).

Conditions of approval

The attached RIDA confirms the nature and extent of the regulated activity the subject of this approval. Conditions include matters relating to the location of the regulated activity, restrictions on limiting vegetation clearing, the limit of full supply level, limiting scour and erosion and release of sediment, fish passage considerations, stormwater management, construction vehicle and machinery clean down, preparation of a vegetation and fauna management plan, preparation of a post-construction monitoring program, the recording of complaints and the keeping of a copy of the RIDA on site at all times.

Appeals

Details of the appeal process, under Part 5 of the RPI Act, are set out in **Attachment 1**. This decision takes effect when the 'appeal period' for the decision ends. The 'appeal period' means the period ending on the last day on which an appeal against the decision may be started.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Darren Brewer, Manager, Planning Group, in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, by telephone on (07) 3452 7472 or by email RPIAct@dasilgq.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Phil Joyce
A/Executive Director
Improvement and Assessment Division
Planning Group

enc. Attachment 1 - Extract from the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*
Regional Interests Development Approval

Attachment 1 - Extract from the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*

Part 5 Appeals and declarations

In this part—

affected land owner, for a regional interests decision, means an owner of land (**affected land**) that may be adversely affected by the resource activity or regulated activity because of—

- (a) the proximity of the affected land to the land the subject of the decision; and
- (b) the impact the activity may have on an area of regional interest.

court means the Planning and Environment Court.

regional interests decision means each of the following decisions—

- (a) a decision to grant a regional interests development approval;
- (b) a decision to impose a condition on a regional interests development approval;
- (c) a decision to refuse all or part of an assessment application;
- (d) a decision to make, or refuse to make, a requested amendment to a regional interests development approval.

72 Appeal to Planning and Environment Court

The following may appeal (an **appeal**) against a regional interests decision to the court—

- (a) the applicant;
- (b) if the applicant is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land;
- (c) an affected land owner.

Note—

See the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 for provisions about the powers, processes and procedures of the court.

73 Appeal period

(1) An appeal may be started only within 20 business days after—

- (a) for a person who received a decision notice, or a copy of a decision notice, for the decision—the notice was received; or
- (b) for an affected land owner for a regional interests decision—notice of the decision was published under section 52.

(2) However, the court may at any time extend the time for starting the appeal.

73A How appeals are started

- (1) An appeal is started by lodging a written notice of appeal with the registrar of the court.
- (2) The notice of appeal must be in the approved form and succinctly state the grounds of the appeal.

74 Respondent for appeal

- (1) The chief executive is the respondent for the appeal.
- (2) If the appellant is not the applicant for the decision, the applicant is a co-respondent for the appeal.
- (3) If the appellant is not the owner of the land for the decision, the owner of the land may apply to the court to be a co-respondent for the appeal.
- (4) If the appeal is about an assessing agency's response, the assessing agency is a co-respondent for the appeal.
- (5) If the appeal is only about an assessing agency's response, the chief executive may apply to the court to withdraw from the appeal.

75 Notice of appeal to other parties

- (1) *An appellant must, within 10 business days after starting an appeal, give notice of the appeal to each of the following—*
 - (a) *a respondent or co-respondent for the appeal;*
 - (b) *if the appellant is not the owner of land for the regional interests decision—the owner of the land.*
- (2) *The notice must state—*
 - (a) *the grounds of the appeal; and*
 - (b) *if the person given the notice is the owner of the land—that the person may apply to the court to be a co-respondent for the appeal.*

76 Stay of operation of decision

- (1) *The starting of an appeal does not stay the operation of the decision appealed against.*
- (2) *However, the court may stay the operation of the decision to secure the effectiveness of the appeal.*
- (3) *A stay—*
 - (a) *may be given on reasonable conditions as the court considers appropriate; and*
 - (b) *operates until the first of the following happens—*
 - (i) *the period fixed by the court ends;*
 - (ii) *the appeal is decided, withdrawn or dismissed; and*
 - (c) *may be revoked or amended by the court.*

77 Who must prove case for appeal

- (1) *In an appeal by the applicant for a regional interests decision, it is for the appellant to establish the appeal should be upheld.*
- (2) *In an appeal by either of the following, it is for the applicant for a regional interests decision to establish the appeal should be dismissed—*
 - (a) *if the applicant is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land;*
 - (b) *an affected land owner.*