

COMMUNITY FUTURES TASK FORCE

Issue 2 **Wyaralong Dam**

September 2006

Community Futures Task Force Hotline: 1800 133 258



Queensland
Government

BEAUDESERT JOINS TASK FORCE TEAM

The Mayor of Beaudesert, Cr Joy Drescher has accepted an invitation to join the Community Futures Task Force.

Task Force chair Major General Peter Arnison said the Bromelton Off Stream storage was a critical element in the South East Queensland water plan and it was important the Beaudesert Shire was represented.

Major General Arnison met with Cr Drescher and members of the Beaudesert Shire Council in his recent visit to inspect the Bromelton area, including possible off stream storage sites.

“As well as the off stream storage, the Wyaralong Dam wall and part of the ponded area is in the Beaudesert Shire,” he said.

“Further, the Boonah Beaudesert Road is a major arterial link between these two key rural centres and it

will be affected by the Wyaralong Dam construction,” he said.

“There is a need for both the Beaudesert and Boonah Shires to have major input in the development of the three major elements of the project, the off stream storage, the new highway link and the Wyaralong Dam.

“These two towns have important linkages and I welcome the opportunity to work together for the best outcomes during all stages of the projects,” he said.

“The Task Force also has the role of working with the community to identify and deliver opportunities for the region, and together we will be able to achieve this,” he said.

Cr Drescher joins the Mayor of Boonah Cr John Brent who is also a member of the Community Futures Task Force.

FINAL BOUNDARIES AND ROAD OPTIONS OUT BY EARLY DECEMBER

The final details of the land requirements for the Wyaralong dam and relocated regional roads will be available by December this year.

These reports being prepared by Queensland Water Infrastructure, the company building the dam and the Department of Natural Resources and Water will be made available individually to all affected land owners.

Community Futures Task Force chair Major General Peter Arnison said that details presented at the latest Task Force meeting, held on 14 September, indicated that this priority work was on track.

“These detailed reports will provide certainty for people about the impacts of the dam that the original indicative maps were not able to deliver,” he said.

“I have asked the planners undertaking the road re-alignment and road access work to consider outcomes

that would minimise further impacts on landowners,” he said.

“As well, there will be a very sensitive attitude taken where homes and other assets of significant value are just caught in the buffer zone. In these cases every endeavour, consistent with human safety, will be taken to adjust the buffer zone to ensure they are not affected,” he said.

Major General Arnison noted that roadways and activities including farming and grazing can continue to be undertaken in the buffer zones, again consistent with safety requirements.

He said that Queensland Water Infrastructure, the dam construction company, will be working with affected residents and landowners to ensure that the best outcomes are able to be achieved.

Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI)

Community Futures Task Force chair Major General Peter Arnison and the new Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd Graeme Newton have visited the Boonah and Beaudesert areas and met with land owner groups on dam planning matters.

QWI is the special purpose company established to manage the planning approvals and development of the Wyaralong Dam.

Peter Arnison and Graeme Newton met land owners on site at Boonah and visited possible sites at Bromelton as part of the planning process.

QWI is defining the exact extent of land required for the dam project. When this detailed information is available each affected landowner will receive a letter which will include the Land Purchasing Policy, a plan that shows the proposed acquisition line for their property, an explanation of the options available to them and contact details for the next steps.

The gathering of this detailed information is currently the highest priority for the project and given the complex nature of the information being collected is taking some time to complete accurately and to be fully verified.

At present the activities currently underway to determine the land required for the dam and the buffer zone include:

- Flood modelling
- Dam design
- Detailed mapping
- A detailed transport corridor assessment
- Detailed plan of land required for the dam

Flood Modelling

Modelling has been done to assess flood heights for pre dam and post dam construction scenarios. This is a complex task which includes local catchment assessment, a review of stream bed bank characteristics and ground truthing of previous floods in the area.

Dam design

The design is being refined to lessen flood and backwater impacts and to provide for the efficient constructability of the project. There is ongoing design optimization to manage flood heights upstream and flood mitigation downstream.

Detailed Mapping

The detailed review of mapping is underway to ensure an accurate representation of boundaries for properties, contours, dam volumes and flood heights. This will include low level (helicopter mounted) aerial photography to provide more accurate data for key areas such as roads and the dam site.

Roads (major and minor)

A detailed transport corridor assessment is underway to ascertain upgrades, relocations and possible closures. Landholder access to properties is also being assessed to determine any affected properties. Overall it is intended that the majority of the existing main transport corridors will remain trafficable.

Land purchasing policy

A plan is being prepared as a result of all the studies to define the extent of the land needed, including buffer zones.

TASK FORCE FUTURE REPORTS

Major regional studies are underway to develop land use and infrastructure strategies for the Beaudesert - Boonah region.

These preliminary and longer term studies will identify and deliver positive future outcomes for communities in the Wyaralong dam and Bromelton Off Stream Storage areas.

The Community Futures Task Force chair Major General Peter Arnison said that information gathered during its visits to the areas will be used to inform these studies and he would welcome ideas and advice from members of the community regarding opportunities and choices for their future.

Major General Arnison said that the regional land use and infrastructure study would commence shortly through the Office of Urban Management and Department of Local Government, Planning and Sport. The study will be undertaken in close consultation with the two Councils.

Meetings with the Mayors in the region have already been held to ensure that all Shire Councils are fully involved in the study and its progress.

The land use strategy will identify the direct and indirect impacts on existing land uses and settlement patterns and identify the impacts on existing infrastructure.

It will identify future land use requirements and undertake a comprehensive land use opportunities and constraints analysis to guide future planning.

The study will also identify outdoor recreation opportunities directly related to the dam.

It will consider a range of future land use and settlement pattern options to meet the future needs of the region.

Finally, it will identify mechanisms for delivering the preferred land use and settlement pattern outcomes.

The implementation of the recommendations will be through existing processes such as the SEQ regional plan regulating provisions, the Boonah Local Growth Management Strategy and supporting planning scheme controls.