

Taroom Trough Development Plan Works

Project Report

April 2026

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The department acknowledges the First Nations peoples in Queensland: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their connections to the lands, winds and waters we now all share. We pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the continuous living culture of First Nations Queenslanders – their diverse languages, customs and traditions, knowledges and systems. We acknowledge the deep relationship, connection and responsibility to land, sea, sky and Country as an integral element of First Nations identity and culture. The Country is sacred. Everything on the land has meaning and all people are one with it. We acknowledge First Nations peoples' sacred connection as central to culture and being. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of First Nations peoples and commit to shaping our state's future together. The department recognises the contribution of First Nations peoples and communities to the State of Queensland and how this continues to enrich our society more broadly.

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Purpose of the report

This report supports amendments to the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Regulation 2020* to facilitate the preparation of the Taroom Trough Development Plan. The amendment regulation is provided for under sections 108, 109 and 173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



Gerard Coggan
Coordinator-General

20 April 2026

1. Background

1.1 Need for action

Queensland relies on imported crude oil to sustain domestic refining and imported refined fuels, particularly diesel, for the operation of its essential services, industries and communities, including mining, freight and agriculture. In the current geopolitical environment, global supply chains are experiencing significant disruption, leaving Queensland's economy and community exposed to market volatility for these products.

Queensland has limited ability to respond in the short-term with domestic oil production small and largely committed, while alternative sources remain undeveloped. Without intervention, Queensland risks continued vulnerability to fuel supply shocks and foregone opportunities to strengthen domestic energy security and regional economic outcomes.

Queensland has a substantial potential hydrocarbon resource base, with the Taroom Trough identified as a medium-term development opportunity to improve domestic fuel security and support regional economic development. However, the basin is at an early stage of exploration and appraisal, with further appraisal, infrastructure planning and approvals coordination required to support progression toward commercial production.

On 8 April 2026, the Premier announced that the Queensland Government is unlocking development in the Taroom Trough to bolster the State and the nation's future fuel security. This is to be guided by a Taroom Trough Development Plan prepared by the Coordinator-General as directed by way of a works regulation.

1.2 Context

The Taroom Trough is a major sedimentary depocenter in the broader Bowen–Surat Basin with granted exploration tenements spanning 36,200 square kilometres. It is situated predominantly within the Western Downs Regional Local Government Area (LGA) and extends into Maranoa Regional, Central Highlands Regional, Banana Shire and Goondiwindi Regional LGAs.

The Taroom Trough represents a potential significant onshore oil and gas resource that could enhance domestic supply, strengthen fuel security, and reduce dependence on imported crude oil and fuels. Situated within an established energy province the area is relatively well positioned with respect to legacy oil and existing gas infrastructure. The Moonie to Brisbane oil pipeline, which previously transported crude oil to Lytton refinery, remains in place but closed. The east coast gas transmission network, via the Wallumbilla hub, provides connectivity between key basins, including Bowen, Surat and Cooper, demand centres on the east coast and liquified natural gas export terminals.

Exploration is being progressed by multiple proponents with a stage-gated program moving from data analysis to appraisal drilling and pilot testing. The current focus of industry activity for exploration and development activities is predominantly in the Western Downs Regional and Maranoa Regional LGAs.

The Taroom Trough Development Plan will be prepared in collaboration with local governments, industry, community and the Commonwealth Government to coordinate development of oil and gas resources in the region, stimulate regional investment and job creation. It complements other Queensland Government work being progressed to understand, assess and prioritise domestic fuel supply options across Queensland. The Queensland Government is examining near-term supply uplift opportunities, broader oil and liquids resource potential, refining capability and integration pathways, and other strategic domestic fuel supply options.

2. The project

2.1 Responsible entity

The Coordinator-General has been tasked with project delivery and is the responsible entity.

2.2 Project description

The Taroom Trough Development Plan is to provide a strategic whole-of-basin framework to enable the orderly, efficient and responsible development of oil and gas resources within the Taroom Trough.

The Taroom Trough Development Plan will:

- Establish a shared vision and development pathway for the orderly, efficient and responsible development of oil and gas resources in the Taroom Trough;
- Establish a shared, robust and integrated subsurface understanding to support infrastructure planning;
- Consider existing and planned facilities, infrastructure, networks, services and associated corridors and identify opportunities to leverage these assets (e.g. gas, power, water, pipelines, refineries, roads and other trunk infrastructure);
- Identify new facilities, infrastructure, services and associated corridors and other relevant matters that may support development of the Taroom Trough;
- Improve regulatory efficiency and certainty through a coordinated approach to approvals and shared evidence;
- Inform downstream pathway-to-market analysis, including liquids handling, transport, refinery suitability and integration with existing processing and supply chain infrastructure;
- Provide for the delivery of regional investment and jobs and the management of cumulative project impacts;
- Support community confidence and social licence, including addressing coexistence challenges while protecting environmental values; and
- Provide greater clarity and confidence for future decision making.

The Taroom Trough Development Plan will support and inform project-level decision making, infrastructure planning and investment sequencing.

2.3 Project area

The project area consists of:

- Taroom Trough, which is situated predominantly within the Western Downs Regional LGA and extends into Maranoa Regional, Central Highlands Regional, Banana Shire and Goondiwindi Regional LGAs, and surrounding communities within these LGAs.
- Other LGAs that will support market development of the Taroom Trough, including the City of Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Gladstone.

2.4 Land requirements

To facilitate the preparation of the Taroom Trough Development Plan, limited temporary access to and use and occupation of land (including privately owned land) may be required. Land acquisition is not in scope.

2.5 Coordinator-General

The Coordinator-General will prepare the Taroom Trough Development Plan and may exercise land access functions and powers under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

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