

# Barlil Weir Project and Cooranga Weir Project – Investigation Works

## Project Report

October 2025

**The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, connects industries, businesses, communities and government (at all levels) to leverage regions' strengths to generate sustainable and enduring economic growth that supports well-planned, inclusive and resilient communities.**

### Acknowledgement of Country

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 investigation works for the Barlil Weir Project and the Cooranga Weir Project. The amendment regulation is provided for under sections 99, 100, 108, 109 and 173 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.



Gerard Coggan  
**Coordinator-General**  
24 October 2025

# 1. Background

Ministerial Charter Letters detail the government's commitments and priorities that Ministers are responsible for delivering through the agencies within their Ministerial portfolio.

The Charter Letter for the Minister for Local Government and Water, and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers has a focus on delivering generational water infrastructure across Queensland that will secure supply and foster economic growth, as well as addressing future water requirements for further population growth.

A priority under the key portfolio deliverables of the Charter Letter is to progress the *Watertight Water Security Plan* with a new weir on Barambah Creek, Murgon and a new weir on Boyne River, Mundubbera.

The Barlil Weir Project (**BWP**) consists of a weir to be built on Barambah Creek, northwest of Murgon in the South Burnett to secure 1,500ML of water.

The Cooranga Weir Project (**CWP**) consists of a weir to be built on the Boyne River south of Mundubbera in the North Burnett to secure 2,500ML of water.

The weirs are within the Barker Barambah Water Supply Scheme (**BBWSS**) and the Boyne River and Tarong Water Supply Scheme (**BR&TWSS**) respectively and are intended to improve regional water security and support agricultural growth in the Burnett region.

Construction of both weirs is intended to commence by March 2027, with practical completion expected by August 2028, weather and construction conditions permitting.

Sunwater Limited (**Sunwater**) are responsible for delivery of the proposed weirs and the 2025-26 State Budget provides \$29.7 million for Sunwater to progress planning and design work.

Sunwater need to undertake a range of studies to support the assessment and planning of both projects. Site investigations will need to be undertaken to progress those studies and help inform the BWP and CWP. This will require access to land in the vicinity of both projects, to conduct various surveys and assessments.

The purpose of this report is to support a regulation under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (**SDPWO Act**) directing Sunwater (a local body) and the Coordinator-General to undertake those investigation works.

## 2. The Project

### 2.1 Responsible entity

Sunwater is responsible for delivery of the BWP and CWP and is a government owned corporation established under the *Government Owned Corporations Act 1993* and registered water service provider under the *Water Act 2000*. Sunwater is also a local body for the purposes of the SDPWO Act.

### 2.2 Investigation Works

Investigation works are required for the purpose of conducting studies to inform design development and constructability of both weir projects. Investigation works are:

- identification of potential locations for materials extraction, laydown areas and infrastructure
- land valuations
- cultural heritage surveys (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)
- surveys including, but not limited to, bathymetry surveys, aerial LiDAR investigations, terrestrial surveys, hydrology surveys, cadastral surveys as well as feature and asset surveys
- geotechnical investigations including geotechnical drilling and soil sampling
- groundwater assessments
- geomorphic and terrestrial ecology assessments, environmental monitoring and ecological assessments
- securing access to land for undertaking any of the investigation works mentioned above

While all investigation works will be undertaken in a manner that will limit the impact on land within the vicinity of the weirs, it may be necessary for some surveys/assessments to be conducted longitudinally. This is to meet legislative requirements or to assess comparative conditions (e.g. seasonal changes, rainfall patterns, flora and fauna changes required as part of environmental surveys).

### 2.3 Location and Access Requirements

The proposed Barlil Weir would be built on Barambah Creek, northwest of Murgon within the local government area of the South Burnett Regional Council.

The proposed Cooranga Weir would be built on the Boyne River south of Mundubbera within the local government area of the North Burnett Regional Council.

To undertake the Investigation works mentioned above, there is a requirement for temporary access to and through land in the vicinity of the proposed weirs as identified respectively in Appendix 1 and 2.

### 3. Coordinator-General

The Coordinator-General has functions and powers under the SDPWO Act to facilitate large-scale and complex projects, while ensuring their environmental and social impacts are properly managed.

While Sunwater's preference is to negotiate agreement to access land directly with landowners and interest holders, the Coordinator-General may support delivery of both projects through the use of the available powers under the SDPWO Act.

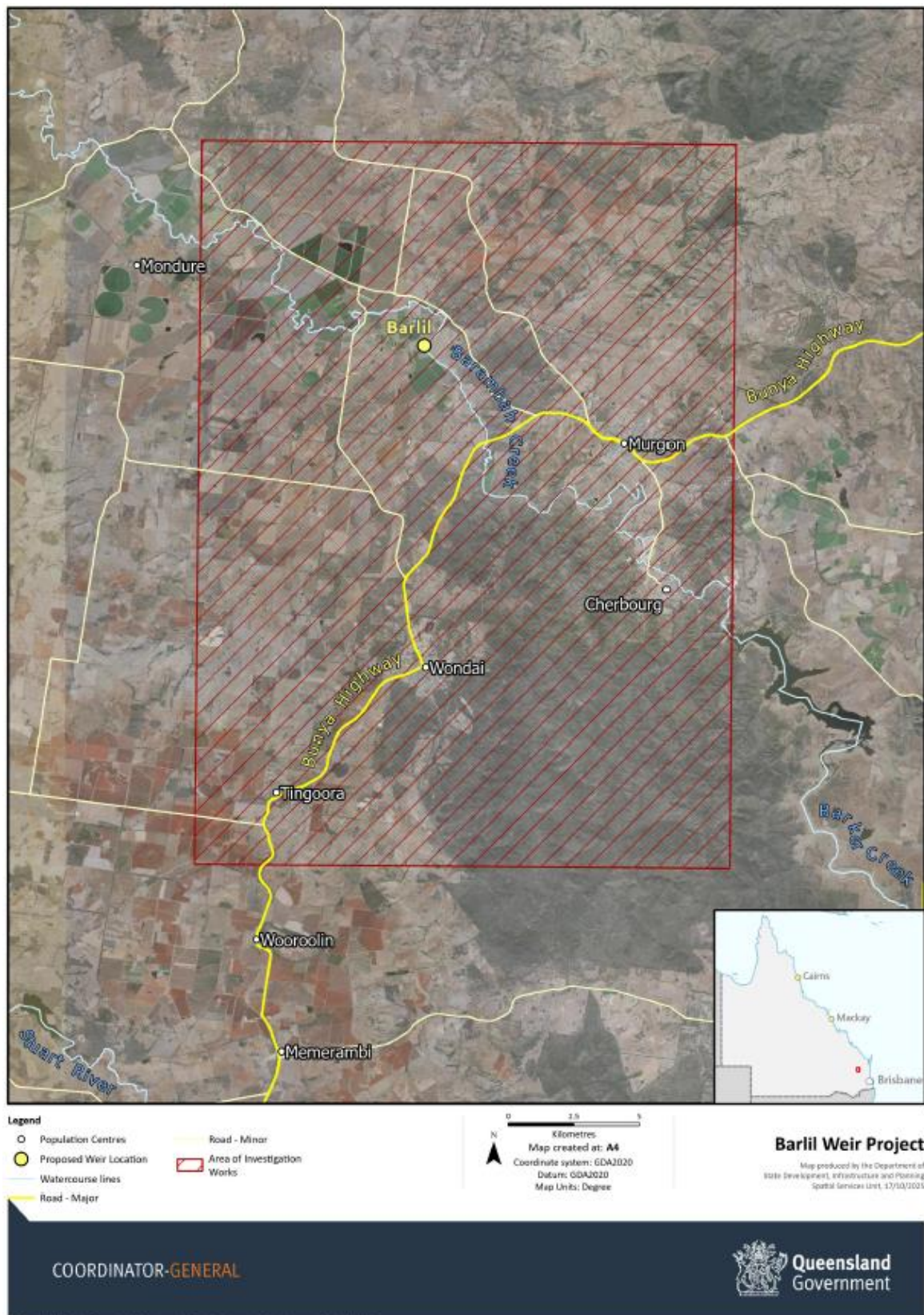
Where the approved works regulation is made that directs Sunwater to undertake the investigation works for both of the weir projects and for the Coordinator-General to undertake the reserved works, the effect is that the Coordinator-General can exercise functions and powers that assist with delivery of both projects, including the power to authorise access to land in accordance with section 136 of the SDPWO Act.

Under section 136 of the SDPWO Act the Coordinator-General can authorise entry upon and occupation of any land for purposes that include:

- Make any inspection, investigation, valuation or survey, take levels
- Dig and bore into any land to ascertain the nature of the soil or substrata thereof
- Set up on any land trigonometrical stations, survey pegs, marks or poles

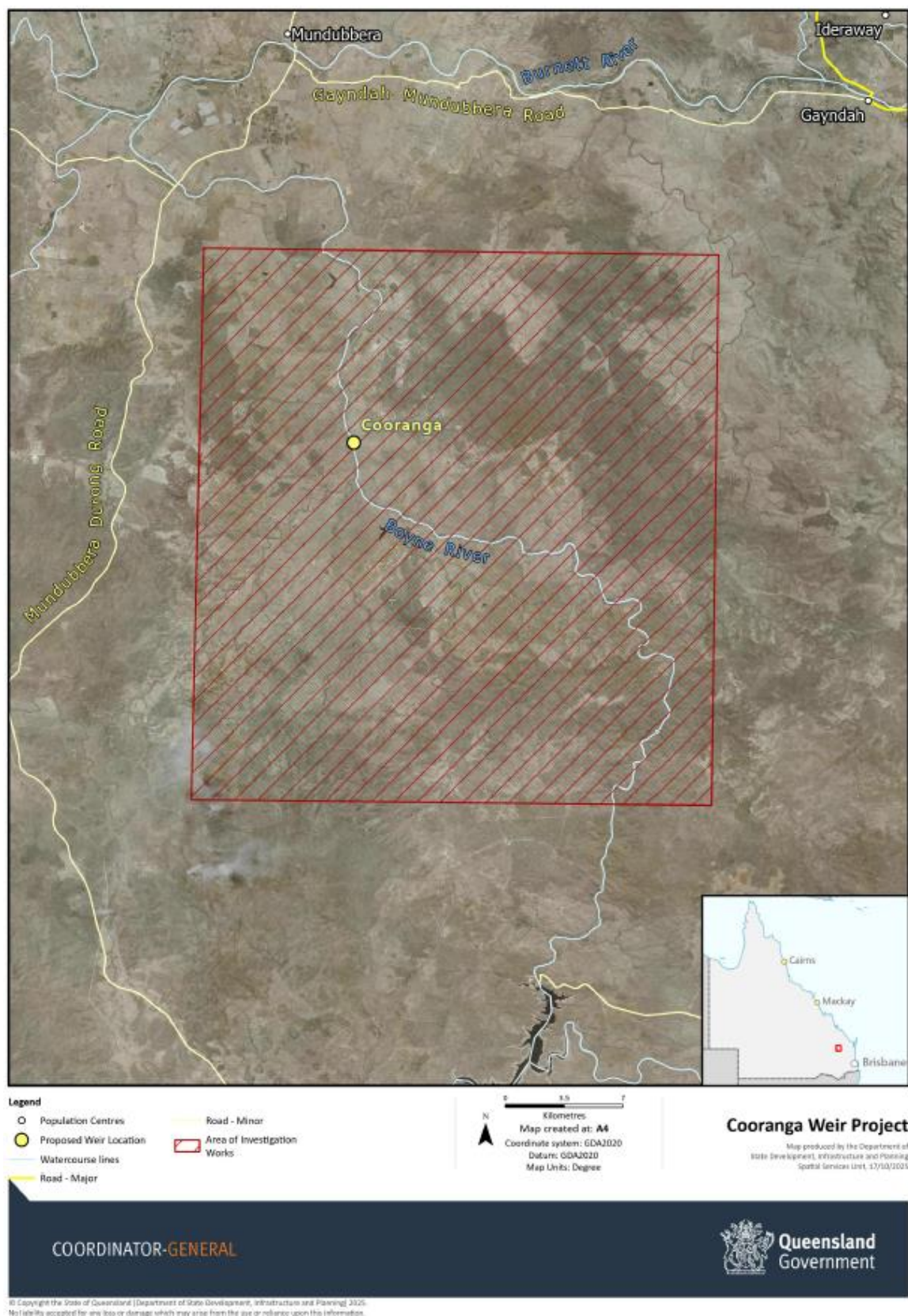


## 4. Appendix 1 – Locality of Barlil Weir Investigation Works





## 5. Appendix 2 – Locality of Cooranga Weir Investigation Works



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