

Schedule H

Queensland Lower Balonne River System Bifurcation Weirs – Business Case

PROJECT SCHEDULE FOR QUEENSLAND LOWER BALONNE RIVER SYSTEM BIFURCATION WEIRS PROJECT

1. This Schedule has been developed consistent with the *Project Agreement for Delivery of Environmental Measures in Northern Murray-Darling Basin* (the Project Agreement). This Agreement has been consolidated in the new *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment*. This consolidation was agreed by Parties to reduce the overall number of agreements between the Commonwealth and the States, but does not alter any existing provisions, roles or responsibilities in the Project Agreement.
2. In accordance with the Project Agreement and this Schedule, the State of Queensland will develop a business case for the Enhance the Flexibility and Capability for Distributing and Managing Low Flows through the Lower Balonne River System Bifurcation Weirs project (alternatively known as the Lower Balonne River System Bifurcation Weirs project).
3. The Parties agree that Queensland will develop a project business case and:
 - (a) submit a draft version to the Commonwealth by 31 March 2022; and
 - (b) submit the final version to the Commonwealth for consideration for implementation funding under the Northern Basin Toolkit by 30 June 2022.
4. In developing the business case, Queensland will ensure that the final version of the business case includes sufficient information to enable the Commonwealth to make a sound and defensible decision on any future funding for the project. In so doing, Queensland will develop a business case that:
 - (a) addresses all elements of the project as outlined in Queensland's feasibility proposal;
 - (b) is consistent with all requirements outlined in the *Northern Basin Toolkit Project Business Case Assessment Guidelines*; and
 - (c) includes a detailed and scientifically robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) plan as part of the project business case (Attachment A).
5. The Parties agree that the Commonwealth will provide a total financial contribution of up to \$662,000 GST exclusive for the activities under this Schedule and as shown in Table 1, noting that funding will not be used by Queensland to duplicate any business case development activities already undertaken and funded by the Commonwealth.
6. In accordance with the Project Agreement, milestones for the project, their relationship to outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments are set out in Table 1, and are to be completed to the Commonwealth's reasonable satisfaction.

7. If the Commonwealth decides to provide implementation funding for this project, details of any future agreed works and milestones will be negotiated subject to the provisions of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations* (IGA FFR) and developed as a separate schedule under the *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment*.

Table 1: Milestones, reporting and payment summary

Outputs	Milestones	Milestone due	Payment (GST exclusive)
1. Governance arrangements in place	A report, including a work plan that provides evidence that management and governance arrangements are in place to support producing outputs in accordance with this Schedule.	Within 10 business days of execution of the Schedule	\$66,200
2. Project Management Plan	Project Management plan for the business case development phase.	30 September 2021	\$132,400
3. Draft Business case	Draft business case, which meets the needs of the Commonwealth including final and robust costings for all elements of the project, to be submitted to the Commonwealth for preliminary analysis.	31 March 2022	\$331,000
4. Final Business case	Final business case, prepared in accordance with Clause 4 of this Schedule and which meets the needs of the Commonwealth, submitted to the Commonwealth for due diligence assessment and consideration for implementation funding.	30 June 2022	\$132,400
Total			\$662,000

ATTACHMENT A

Requirement for the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) plan that is to be provided as part of the project business case.

This plan will provide information on how the project, if implemented, will be assessed to determine its effectiveness in delivering its anticipated environmental outcomes and monitor any key risks and potential ecological dis-benefits. The MER plan must:

1. be underpinned by a program logic, and be consistent with long-term watering plans and water resource plans MER, including being informed by risks these plans have identified;
2. be a standalone document that addresses relevant MER recommendations identified by the Independent Expert Ecological Panel for Ecological Merit and Prioritisation in their assessment of the project feasibility proposal;
3. be capable of evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the works, and also whether or not the intended environmental outcomes have been achieved by these works. This includes being capable of evaluating and reporting on key ecological risks and dis-benefits as part of a risk mitigation strategy developed during the business case;
4. be able to evaluate and report at the project level, but also be geographically and thematically integrated with other relevant MER programs and activities, particularly for other Toolkit projects;
5. describe how MER activities leverage off and does not duplicate the MER activities undertaken through existing programs;
6. describe cost sharing and governance arrangements for longer term MER activities;
7. be designed to support broader Basin Plan MER including the Basin-wide monitoring strategy being led by MDBA; and
8. describe data sharing arrangements with the expectation being that any data and information arising from the MER plan is available to, and shared with, other Basin governments and also made publicly available where appropriate.

SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

Signed *for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Keith Pitt MP

Minister for Resources and Water

Date: 15/9/21

Signed *for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by*



The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP

Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

Date: 29 September 2021