



connors river dam case study

Connors River Dam and Pipelines Environmental Impact Statement

October 2008 – October 2009

In order to meet the future water demands within the Fitzroy River Basin, a dam was proposed on the Connors River. frc environmental was commissioned by SKM on behalf of SunWater to complete the aquatic ecology component of the Connors River Dam and Pipelines Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Project requirements overview

Dam and pipeline installations can significantly impact on the surrounding aquatic environment by creating barriers to fish migration and by reducing the available habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. Although for pipeline installations the disturbance is likely to be short in duration and localised, the impacts on a catchment may be long term if construction and rehabilitation methods are not planned and executed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

As the proposed dam was located on the Connors River, the proposed pipeline would cross the Isaac and Connors River sub-catchments and a comprehensive and insightful aquatic assessment was required. frc environmental was engaged to undertake the aquatic component of the EIS for the pipeline and to determine any potential impacts the pipeline could have on the local aquatic environment.



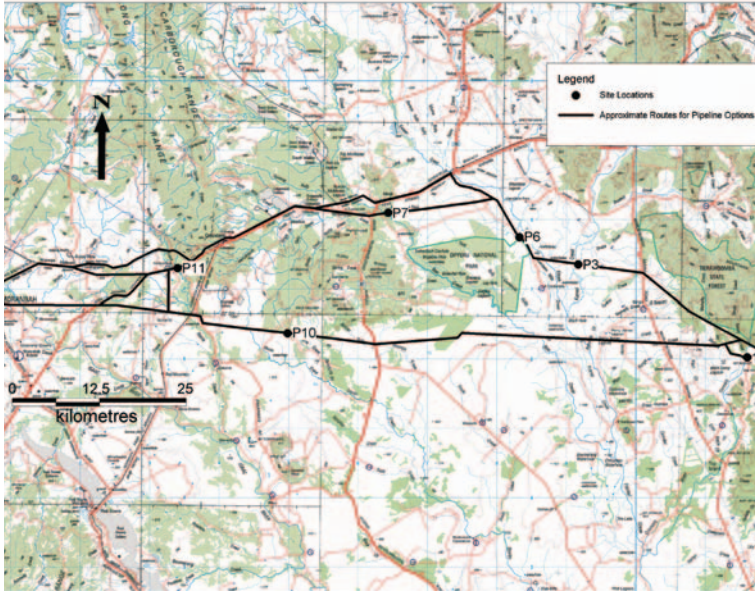
A Krefft's river turtle was humanely captured during the survey – frc environmental has an array of specialist survey gear

Project Performance

- Our involvement in several similar dam and weir EIS's allowed us to determine the degree of detail required by the relevant agencies and respond to the growing recognition of seasonal data for aquatic ecosystems
- Using our knowledge of the Fitzroy Basin, we were able to comprehensively respond to the Terms of Reference for the project.



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Sites surveyed along the proposed Connors River Dam Pipeline route

Our tailored approach and methodology

To ensure the proposed dam and pipeline’s potential impacts were reliably assessed and mitigated, aquatic flora and fauna surveys included habitat, water quality, macrophyte, macroinvertebrate and fish assessments. This provided baseline data to describe the aquatic communities not only within the sub-catchments, but also to compare between the sub-catchments.

At the conclusion of the study, we provided comprehensive, illustrated sections within the EIS report. We presented our results in concise, plain English, and included a comprehensive discussion of the significance and likely implications of our results.

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It’s all about technique - a senior ecologist is collecting aquatic macroinvertebrate samples from macrophyte habitat

industry experience

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- Mining, Oil & Gas
- Linear Infrastructure
- Power Generation & Distribution
- Waste Management
- Water Infrastructure
- Effluent Infrastructure
- Urban, Industrial & Agricultural Development
- Government
- International Development & Aid
- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Wetland Construction & Rehabilitation
- Tourism
- Defence
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