

Cethana Pumped Hydro Project



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It's been a busy time as we continue work to understand the project's potential impacts and opportunities and prepare for the next stage of environment and planning approvals. In this issue, we provide an update on approvals, share what has been happening at the project site and outline upcoming opportunities to learn more about the project and have your say.

What's been happening at the project site?

Over the past few months, our team has been back on site carrying out water monitoring and environmental surveys. This work helps us better understand local conditions. You can see an example of this work on page 2.

Earlier this year, access to some parts of the project site was limited while Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT) undertook timber harvesting in the area as part of its Three-Year Wood Production Plan.

As areas became available, we completed our monitoring and survey work in stages.

The harvesting work included the construction of a new entrance from Cradle Mountain Road. If the Cethana project is approved, this entrance would be upgraded and used as the main access point to the site during construction.

STT owns and manages the land where the proposed project would be built. All environmental surveys and monitoring activities are carried out under permits issued by STT.



The new entrance constructed by STT to the project site area, off Cradle Mountain Road.

The proposed project is located within the Forth–Wilmot catchment. Streams and rivers in the project area support aquatic life, recreation, irrigation and local communities further downstream.

It's important for us to assess how construction activities may affect rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater, and how any risks would be managed.

For the past three years, we've regularly collected surface water quality data from 20 sites to understand existing conditions.

These sites include Lake Cethana and Lake Gairdner, as well as tributaries and creeks flowing east and west off the upper plateau.

We carry out field and laboratory testing on water samples – measuring water chemistry, metals, nutrients, dissolved minerals and salts, and other physical characteristics that help assess water quality.

Collecting water samples helps us to understand characteristics of water within the proposed project area and provides baseline information before construction activities start.

This robust monitoring program will enable the early detection and management of any changes that may occur during construction.

The information we collect will also form part of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), together with proposed measures to maintain the health of ground and surface water during construction and operation.

Top right: Ellen Boardman, an Aquatic Scientist with Entura, is pictured conducting groundwater sampling

Bottom right: Water sampling being undertaken at Hinman Creek by Eamonn Ganley, Environmental Consultant at Entura



Welcoming local tourism staff to site

We recently welcomed staff and volunteers from northwest coast visitor information centres and West by Northwest Regional Tourism Organisation to the project site to learn more about the project.

They spent time with Gina Harvey learning about the existing hydropower scheme, our recreation sites and the proposed Cethana project.

Energy is a popular topic with visitors to Tasmania, and people often ask about our hydropower stations and history of clean energy.

Sharing information about Hydro Tasmania's assets in the area, our future energy vision and what's planned for Cethana helps tourism staff better understand these topics, which in turn helps them respond to visitor enquiries.

Hydro Tasmania has a permanent display at the Sheffield Visitor Information Centre, including a diorama of the Mersey Forth Scheme to provide location context for the Cethana project, and information about the proposed project.



*Above: Gina at our Cethana display at the Sheffield Visitor Information Centre
Below: Checking out Cethana dam on a picture perfect day!*



Approvals progress at a glance

The project team is progressing approvals from local, state and Commonwealth Government authorities. All approvals will be made available for public comment. We'll keep you updated as things progress.

Approval document	Update	Who reviews it?
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	We're currently preparing the EIS. This will outline any potential impacts to the local community and environment and how they would be mitigated.	The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania
Environmental referral	The project requires a full environmental assessment (called a "controlled action"). This will be done using a Public Environment Report. We've been issued guidelines on what we need to include and we are in the process of drafting the PER.	Commonwealth Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Development application (DA)	The proposed Workforce Accommodation Facility requires its own DA. An application is with Kentish Council for review.	Kentish Council

What's coming up?

- Sharing the Public Environment Report required by the Commonwealth
- Submission of the EIS/DA for the Project
- Sharing the draft EIS with nearby landowners, answering questions and hearing concerns.
- Exhibition of the Project EIS/DA and the WAF DA. Our team will be in the community before and during the exhibition period to share information about the documents, respond to questions and provide help on how to make a submission, whether positive or negative, on the project.



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