



Australian Government



National  
Water Grid  
Authority



# National Water Grid — *future-proofing Australia's water resources*

A Date with Northern Australia hosted by Regional Development Australia

Malcolm Southwell  
Assistant Secretary National Water Grid Authority

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# The National Water Grid

## National Water Grid Fund:

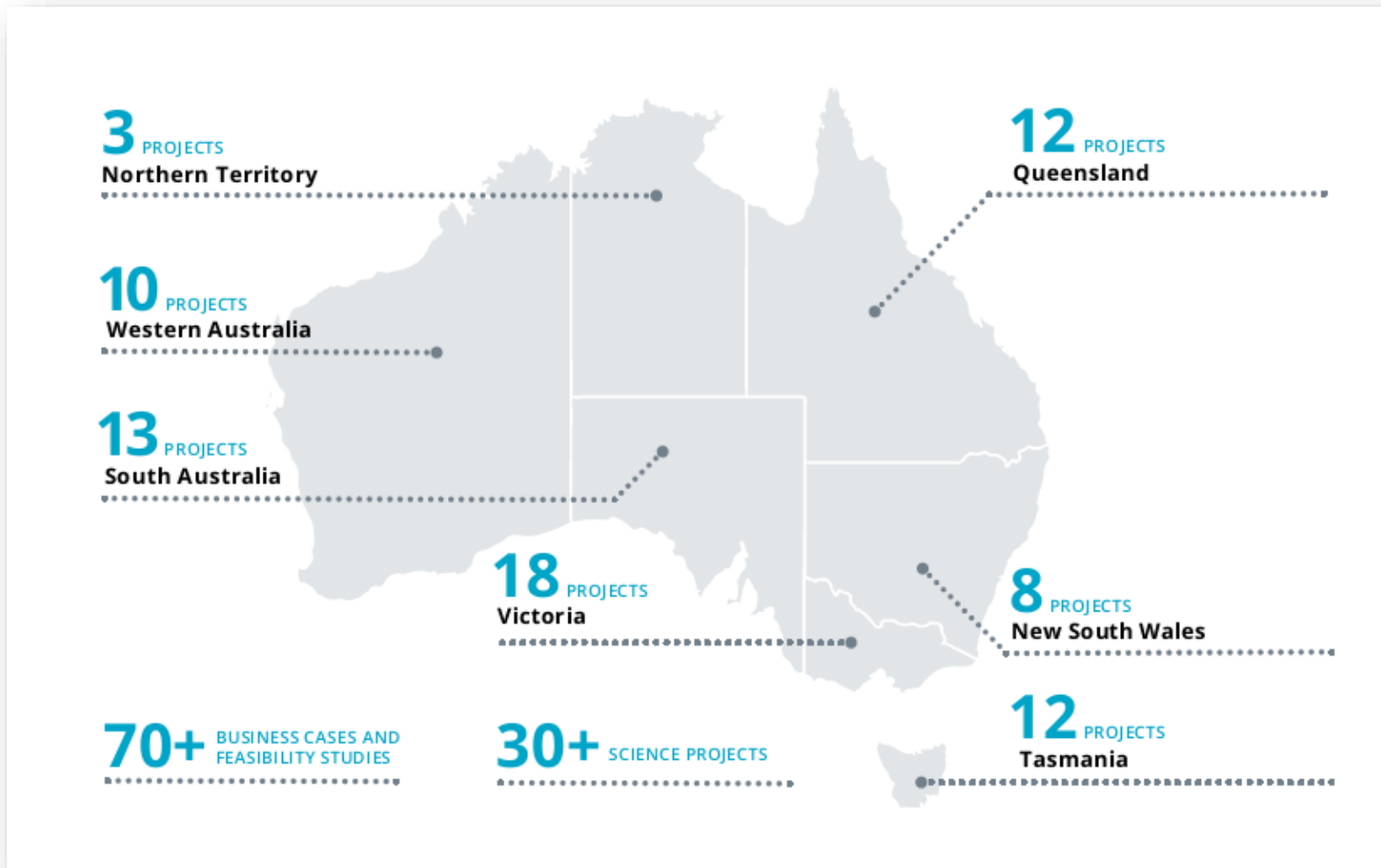
- administered by the National Water Grid Authority

## The National Water Grid:

- Government's vehicle for investment in water infrastructure - to help future-proof Australia's water resources
- secure water supplies for agriculture and for regional and remote communities in the face of climate change
- a long term and coordinated approach to water infrastructure planning
- partnership with state and territory governments – informed by the local knowledge and expertise that local government and key stakeholders can bring



# Delivering the National Water Grid



- National investments – sustainable development of water resources, alternative water supplies and better use of existing supplies
- Projects include water recycling, water distribution, desalination, managed aquifer recharge as well as water storage facilities
- Evidence base - underpinned by business cases, science and an Investment Framework that takes into account sustainable development, economic merits and the National Water Initiative

# Working across government

- When all three levels of government are working together we can achieve the best outcomes for future-proofing Australia
- State and Territories are responsible for bringing forward projects under the Investment framework
- Local knowledge is important for helping informing investment decisions
- All levels of government and private investors can contribute funding to projects.
- The scope of the Investment Framework will be determined by the Government

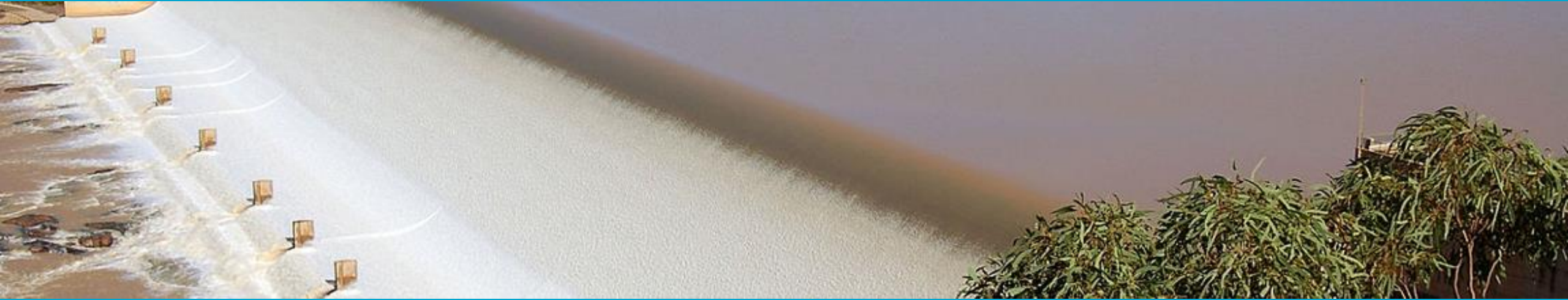






Australian Government

North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority



# North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority

## *NQWIA*

**Jim Pruss**

*Chief Executive Officer*

*North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority*

# North Queensland Water Infrastructure Authority

- ◆ Established on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- ◆ Offices in Bowen, Townsville and Canberra
- ◆ Independent Australian Government agency with a specific focus on progressing priority water infrastructure projects in Nth Queensland
- ◆ Staffing: up to 10, with most located regionally
- ◆ Strategic planning and coordination of Commonwealth Resources to implement water infrastructure priorities in Nth Queensland.
- ◆ Hands on role in:
  - ◆ Working directly with proponents in the development of business cases
  - ◆ Working collaboratively with community stakeholders, Local Governments and the Queensland Government to undertake planning.
  - ◆ Undertaking independent de-risking work to support and ground truth projects.
  - ◆ Providing advice to Australian Government on water infrastructure projects.
- ◆ 2022-23 NQWIA will focus on strategic planning, coordination and advice for Hughenden Irrigation Scheme, Hells Gate Dam, Big Rocks Weir as well as other priority projects.

# NQWIA

- Is directed by the relevant Australian Government Infrastructure Minister
- Hands on oversights and coordination of projects
- Independent investigation and analysis
- Works collaboratively with the Queensland Government
- Undertakes broader policy work as required.





# Big Rocks Weir

- Location: Charters Towers
- Estimated cost approximately \$60 million.
- 10,000 megalitre weir at Big Rocks on the Burdekin River
- Associated fishway structure, saddle dam and a stilling basin.
- Potential to support up to 5000 ha of higher value horticulture for the Charters Towers region
- Jobs: 172 full time (construction)
- Currently in Pre-Construction Phase, with estimated completion late 2022.



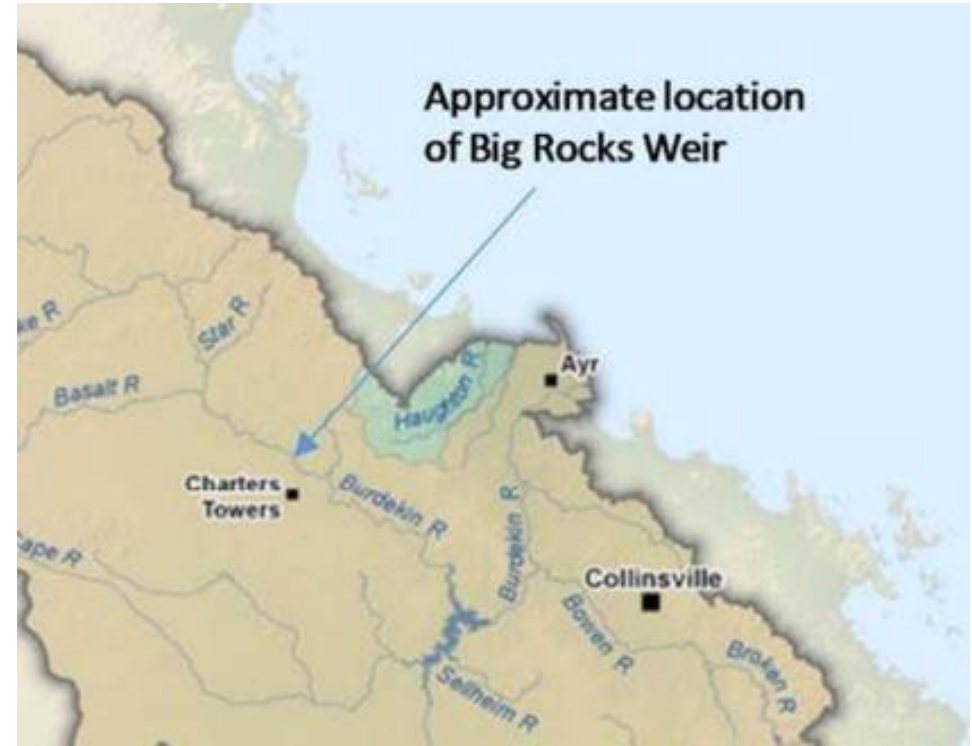
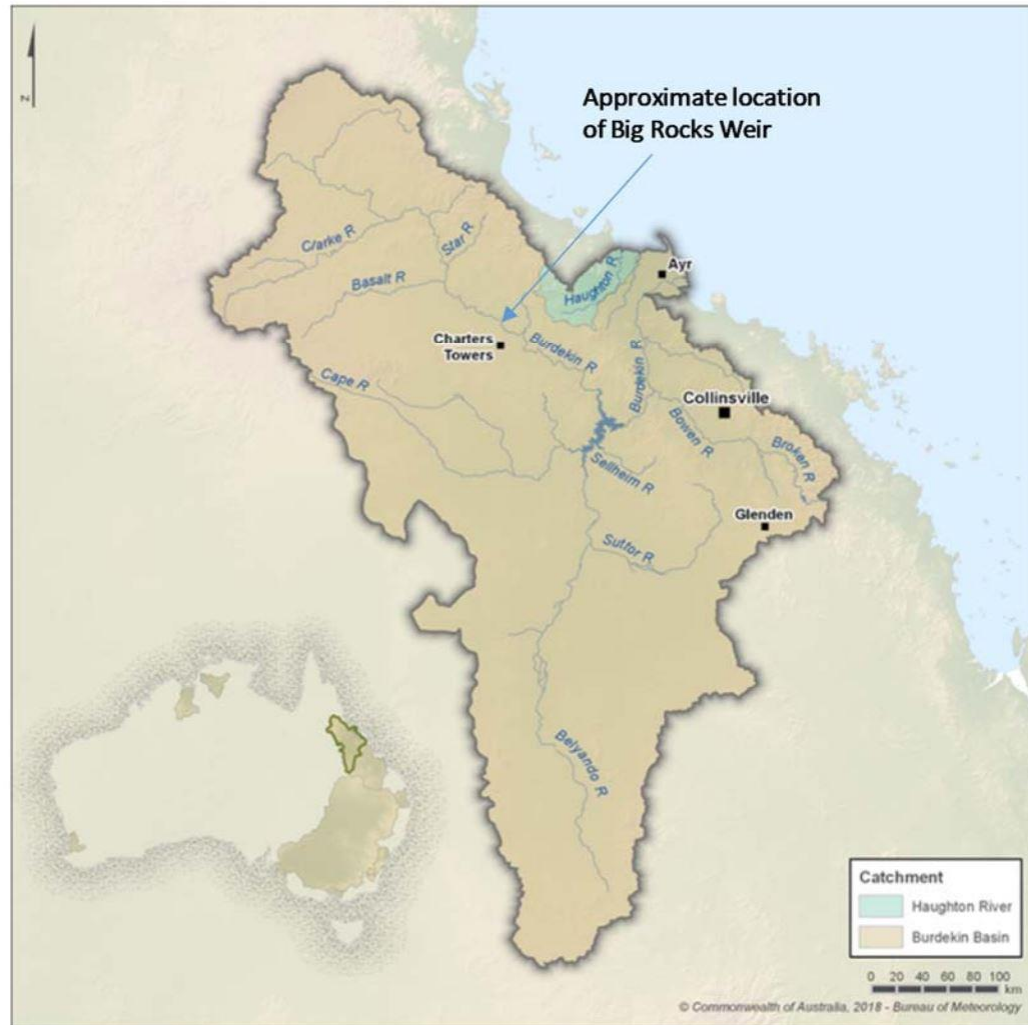
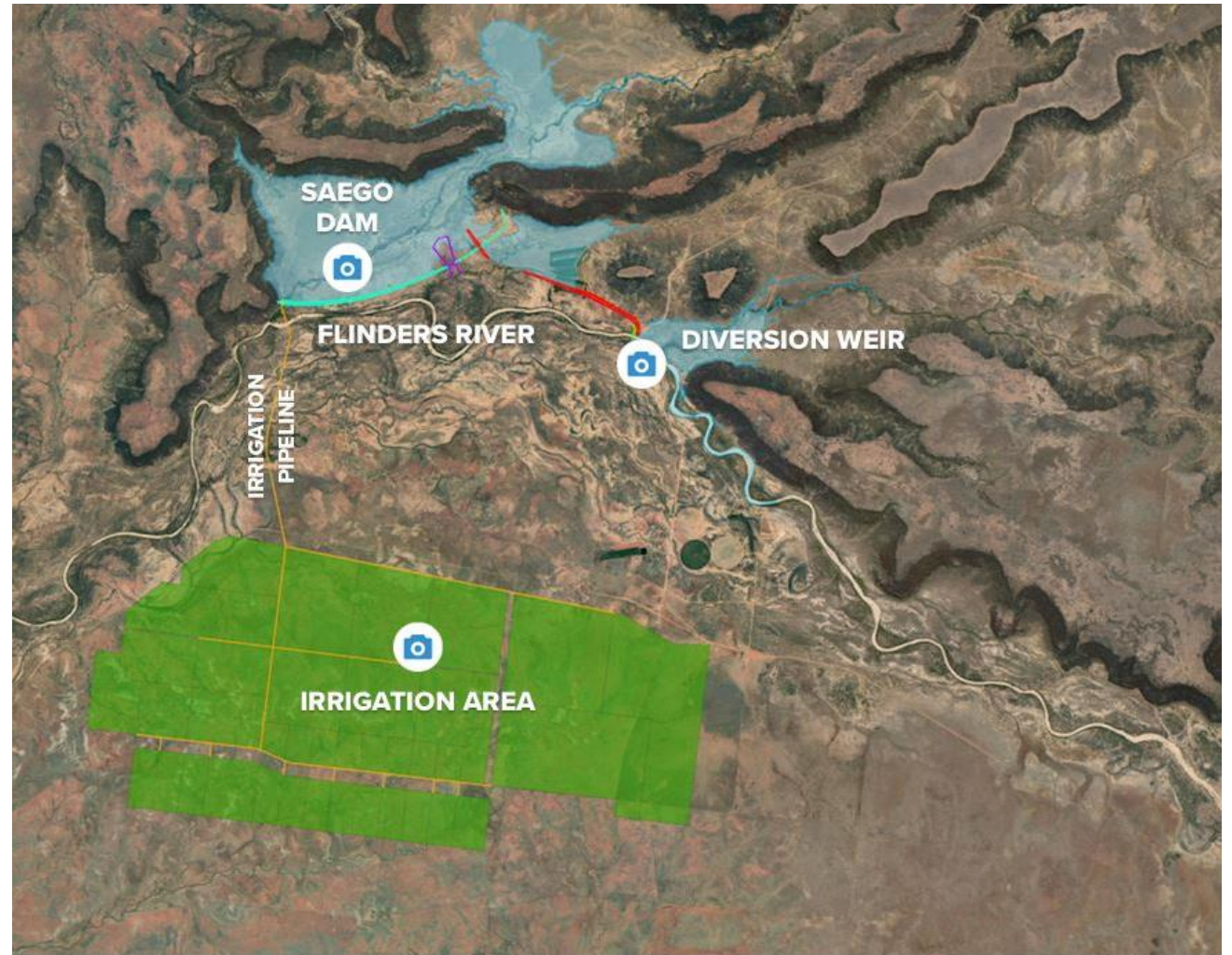


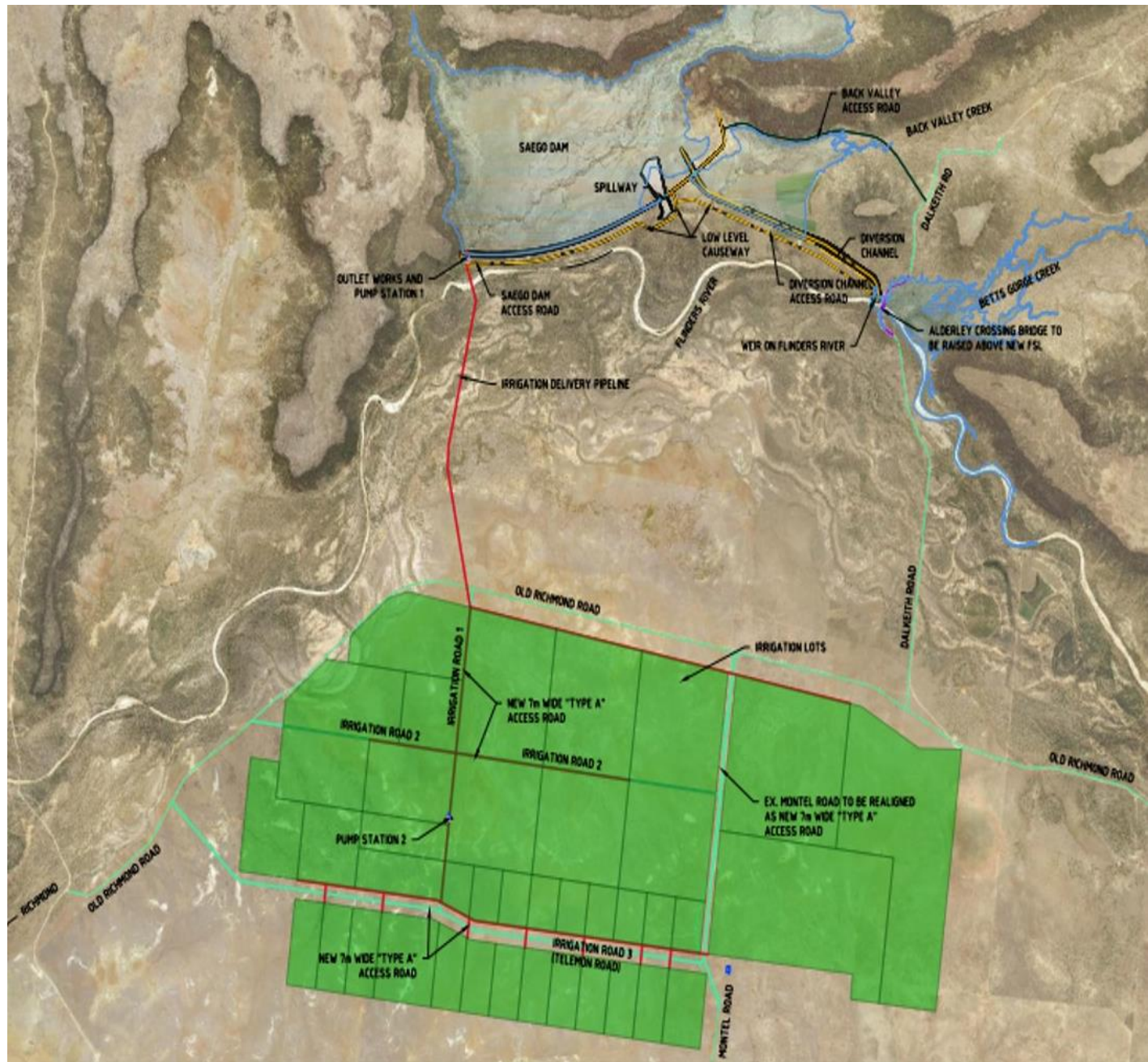
Figure 3 – Burdekin Basin Location

Source: (BOM, National Water Account , 2019)

# Hughenden Irrigation Scheme

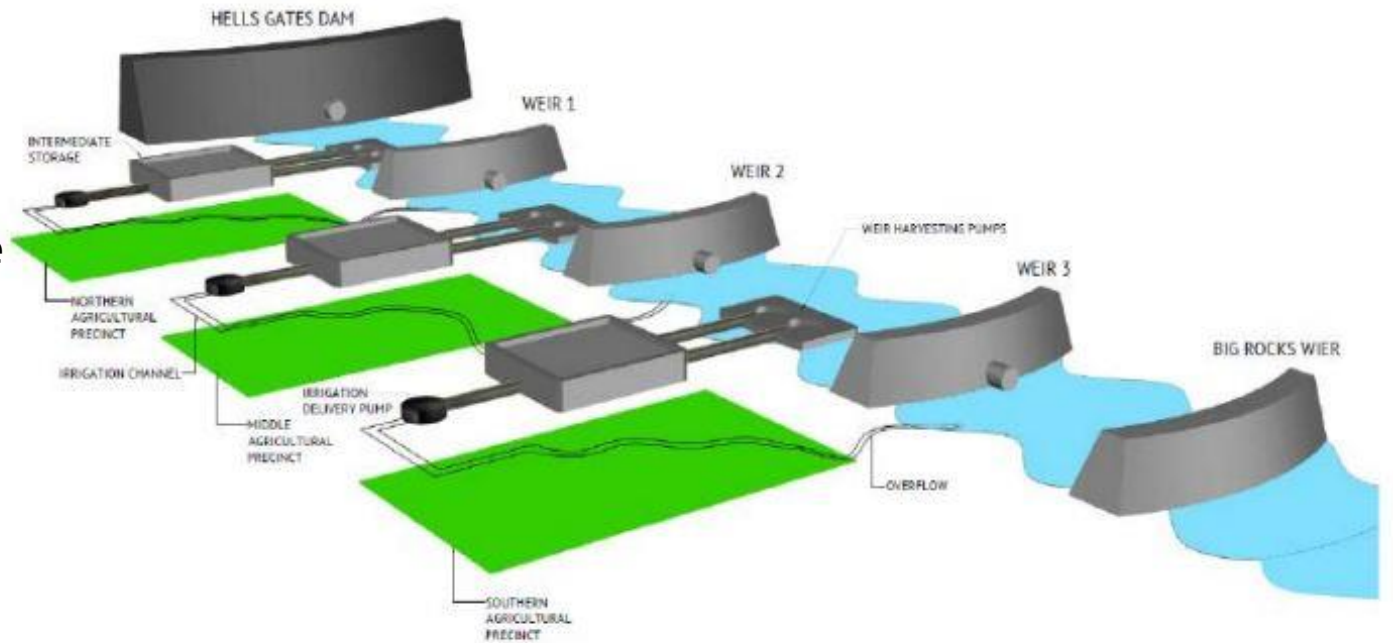
- 45km West of Hughenden
- Construction of Saego Dam, parallel to Flinders River.
- Construction of spillway, 200m long and 10m above riverbed.
- Crest 7,650m long and 20.5m high.
- Major irrigation area up to 10,000ha
- 2000 jobs (direct and indirect) at full agricultural production
- Employing 2,500 people during construction
- Business Case is complete. Currently being reviewed by Qld and Federal Departments.
- Project aims to be sustainable, environmentally positive, development that supports natural preservation.





# Hells Gate Dam

- Detailed Business Case Investigation phase complete – being reviewed by Australian and Queensland Governments.
- Nation-building mega project.
- Location: approx. 10km North-West of Townsville and 120km North of Charters Towers
- \$7.0 billion Queensland investment involving:
  - 2,100 GL Dam – Burdekin Catchment
  - 60,000 HA of irrigated agricultural land
  - Construction of three weirs, Northern, Central and Southern
  - Upgraded road transport infrastructure
- 10,600 Jobs during construction
- 3,300 Jobs while operational



*Irrigation Scheme Concept Drawing*



# Future Projects NQWIA

## Bowen Pipeline

- Burdekin River to Merinda, Bowen.
- Approximately 100km long
- Claimed benefits:
  - Key to unlocking the Bowen, Gumlu and Guthalungra areas.
  - Provides Economic, Environmental and Social benefits.
  - Estimated to increase employment by 3,000 full time employees as crop diversification ensures year round employment.
- Business Case to be Completed in 2023.



# QUESTIONS?

More information available at  
[www.nqwia.gov.au](http://www.nqwia.gov.au)  
and  
[www.nationalwatergrid.gov.au](http://www.nationalwatergrid.gov.au)