

**Question on Notice
No. 1374
Asked on Tuesday, 29 November 2022**

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the proposed Pioneer Valley Dam—

Will the Minister advise (a) what feasibility work has been commissioned, (b) when it was commissioned and (c) the status (reported separately by (i) yield hydrology, (ii) flood hydrology, (iii) geotechnical, (iv) dam wall design, (v) spillway design, (vi) environmental impact, (vii) social impact and (viii) traditional owner engagement)?

ANSWER

Since 2016, the Queensland Government has been investigating large-scale, long duration pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) sites through the Queensland Hydro Study. The Pioneer-Burdekin project was identified through the Queensland Hydro Study as one of the most attractive pumped hydro sites in Queensland.

Queensland Hydro, a Queensland Government owned company, has been charged with delivering the Pioneer-Burdekin Detailed Analytical Report which is due to be finalised in 2024 and will form the basis for an investment decision.

Queensland Hydro has engaged a global expert in hydropower design to complete the Reference Design for the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project. This design, along with other technical studies are to be undertaken during 2023 and will inform the Detailed Analytical Report to be delivered to the Queensland Government.

I can advise that Queensland Hydro is currently in the process of commissioning studies relating to front end engineering design (which will include preliminary dam wall and spillway design), water (including yield and flood hydrology), social impact and sustainability, ecology and environmental impact, heritage and geotechnical and soils.

The studies will be progressed concurrently with ongoing landowner, community and traditional owner consultation and engagement which has occurred from the time of the project's announcement and will continue for all stages of the project. To date, Queensland Hydro has held community sessions in the Pioneer Valley and Mackay in October and November 2022 and have met with representatives of the Widi and Yuwibara Traditional Owner groups.