



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN02951-2023

13 April 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
By email: clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3719 7270
E: epw@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition number 3846-22, titled 'Pioneer Valley Land Resumptions'. This petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2023. I would like to thank the petitioners for their engagement with the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan (QEJP) sets a vision to transform Queensland's electricity system to deliver cleaner, cheaper, secure energy for generations to come. The QEJP will create 100,000 skilled jobs by 2040 to deliver our Queensland SuperGrid and unlock opportunities in renewables, hydrogen, battery manufacturing, mining, and refining our mineral resources. Our plan for Queensland will be crucial in meeting both state and federal climate targets as we reduce emissions from our grid by 96% by 2040, playing our part in protecting the reef and avoiding dangerous climate change.

The Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project is the cornerstone of the plan and will support Queensland's transition to a renewable energy system. The Pioneer Burdekin Pumped Hydro Project will provide long duration energy storage to capture renewable energy and store it over days and weeks, providing electricity to Queensland households and businesses when they need it.

In 2023 and 2024, Queensland Hydro will be conducting detailed analytical studies to better understand the environmental, cultural, social, economic, and technical qualities of pumped hydro development in the Pioneer Valley. Detailed studies will include engineering design, geological testing, hydrological modelling, cultural heritage, environmental and social assessments.

Preliminary desktop studies have identified potential land required for the project. Queensland Hydro has commenced discussions with landowners to obtain access to their land to undertake these studies. The support of landholders in providing access during this study period is greatly appreciated by the project team.

Queensland Hydro is working directly with landholders to understand their specific requirements and to ensure a positive outcome for all potentially impacted members of the community. In some circumstances, at the request of landholders, this may include discussions about early acquisition of properties.

The results of these studies will form the basis of a detailed analytical report, due to the Queensland Government in 2024. This report will enable the government to decide whether the project progresses to the next stage of development. If the project was to advance to the next stage, a comprehensive environmental impact statement would be undertaken.

Following environmental and project development approvals, Queensland Hydro would be able to confirm the land required for the project.

I hope this information clarifies your enquiry. If I can help with other matters within my portfolio, please contact my office on (07) 3719 7270.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement