



# Urannah Dam and Collinsville Irrigation Area Project

History, Current Status and  
Implementation Process

**BOWEN COLLINSVILLE ENTERPRISE**

# Urannah Dam – History

- First investigated in 1963 and again in 1969 by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Company:
  - Capacities ranging from 237,000 ML to 586,000 ML
  - Urannah Dam site was mapped and investigated by seismic surveys, dozer trenches, percussion and diamond drilling in 1969 by SMEC.
  - Initial designs included 30,000 ha irrigation along Bowen River, with similar farm sizes and structure to Emerald Irrigation Area.
  - Originally intended that Urannah would supply additional water to the Burdekin for the Elliot Main Channel.



# Urannah Dam – History

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- Further investigations in 1977/78:
  - Single stage construction of 1.5 million ML
  - Two stage construction of 863,000 ML (Stage I) and 1.5 million ML (Stage II)
- With Commonwealth Govt. support the focus switched to Burdekin Falls Dam in late 70's.

# Urannah Dam – History

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- Urannah assessed as part of the Mackay Regional Water Resources Strategy in 1996 (Stage I – Connell Wagner report).
- Received Category 1 high priority status from the QLD Water Infrastructure Taskforce in 1997.

# Urannah Dam – History

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- Mackay Regional Water Resources Strategy (Stage II – 1998) endorsed Urannah as the priority one project in the region.
- Following Water Infrastructure Taskforce recommendations, Burdekin Catchment study began in 1998 as part of a state-wide process.



# Burdekin Basin Catchment Study

- Burdekin Catchment Study report handed down in Sept 2001
- Recommends the further investigation of Urannah Dam as a priority water storage project in Burdekin River Catchment in Med term (2005 to 2015)

# Bowen Collinsville Enterprise Involvement

- Ongoing involvement since formation of Collinsville District Development in '94:
  - Future Search Workshop
  - Mackay Water Strategy
  - Water Infrastructure Taskforce
  - Burdekin Catchment Study
- Co ordinate Urannah Dam steering committee (local stakeholder group).
- Sat on Burdekin Basin Water Planning Advisory Committee.
- Sit on Burdekin Water Resource Plan Community Reference Panel



An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The terrain is rugged and covered in dense green forest. A prominent river valley runs through the center of the range, with a winding river visible. The mountains recede into the distance under a clear blue sky. The text 'Current Status' is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Current Status



# Current Status of Urannah Project

- Urannah Dam has not been approved by QLD Government.
- The QLD Water Infrastructure Taskforce (1997), the Mackay Regional Water Resources Strategy (1998), and the Burdekin River Catchment Study(2001) all endorsed Urannah as a high priority project.
- Burdekin Catchment Study has recommended further assessment of the Urannah Dam project

# Current Status of Urannah Project

- Assessments completed so far include:
  - Preliminary engineering studies & cost estimates
  - Scoping study
  - Initial environmental, cultural heritage and social impact appraisals
  - Economic analysis of likely agricultural development (Burdekin Agro-economic Study)
  - Detailed hydrological modeling (IQQM)
  - Economic pre-feasibility study completed 2001 (Macarthur Agribusiness)
  - Water Use Study completed in 2003 (Origin Capital Study).



An aerial photograph of a vast, hilly landscape. The terrain is characterized by numerous ridges and valleys, with a prominent river valley winding through the center. The vegetation is dense and green, covering the slopes of the hills. The sky is clear and blue, suggesting a bright day. The overall scene is a wide, panoramic view of a natural, mountainous region.

**Where to from here ?**

# Where to from Here ?

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- Urannah project has been consistently proven to be the most viable water solution for the Bowen / Broken River & coalfields.
- Sunwater has indicated the Urannah project is an attractive solution.
- Need a concerted effort from Sunwater / DNRM&E / State Development to move project forward immediately.
- Suggest formation of a Urannah dam steering committee to ensure local stakeholders remain involved in the process.