

Burdekin irrigation water demand survey

Introduction and purpose

Building Queensland, in partnership with Sunwater, is leading the development of a detailed business case investigating an upgrade of the Burdekin Falls Dam to comply with dam safety requirements. This could also include a raising of the dam wall to provide additional supply.

NCEconomics and Synergies Economic Consulting have been engaged to undertake economic analysis for the business case, including a detailed assessment of future water demand in the irrigation schemes.

This survey provides an opportunity for current and future irrigators to provide information and data that will inform the estimation of future irrigation water demand. Any information provided by you for this survey will remain confidential. Information will be only be reported at an aggregated and anonymous format.

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. If you have further questions, please contact us at consult@nceconomics.com.

This survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Please return this form by Friday 30th October.

Please specify if you will answer the survey in hectares or acres. Your answer will help us to correctly interpret your answers to subsequent questions in this survey.

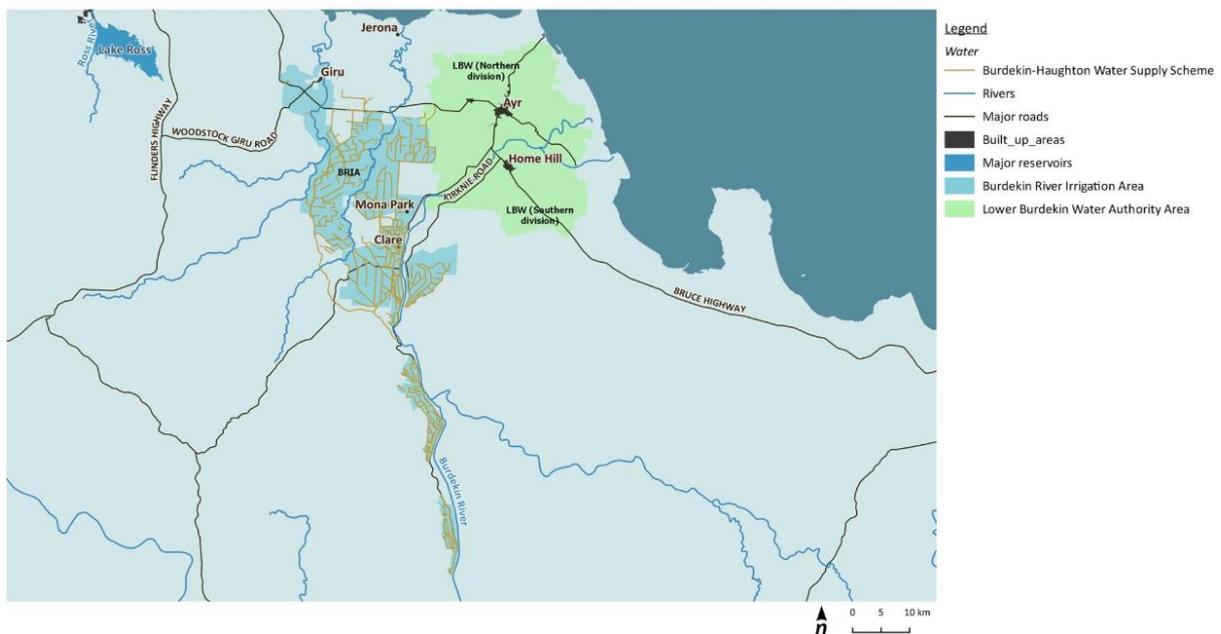
Please tick (✓) one:

Hectares or **Acres**

By answering this survey, you will qualify to enter into a draw to win a **\$100 gift voucher**.

Burdekin Water Supply Scheme Areas

The Burdekin region water supply scheme areas are shown in the map below for your information.



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Section A: About your farming business

Firstly, it is important to understand the basics about your farming business. The following question will assist us in understanding your current farm structure including crops and water use.

1. What is your current and future land ownership? Please provide your answer by ticking (✓) an appropriate box in the table below. Tick all boxes relevant to your land holding/s.

Sub-regions	I own/lease land in this benefited area	I own/lease land adjacent to this benefited area	I am interested in owning/leasing land in this benefited area
Burdekin River Irrigation Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower Burdekin Water (Northern Division)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower Burdekin Water (Southern Division)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other nearby area (e.g. Bowen)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The questions below are about your current farm/s. If you own multiple land holdings answer these questions as if your farms were a single holding. If you currently don't own land, go to Section B.

2. What is the combined area of your farm/s? Please enter your answer in the box below.

Area

3. What is the area you would have under different irrigation crops in a typical year and what is your typical annual irrigation application rate per area (i.e. ML/ha or ML/per acre)?

Crop	Crop description if necessary	Please specify age for tree crops	Total area for each crop	Irrigation application rate (ML/per area)
Cane		NA		
Annual broadacre crops		NA		
Annual horticulture crops		NA		
Avocados				
Mangos				
Citrus				
Other (please state)				
Fallow (uncropped)		NA		

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4. If you are located in the Burdekin River Irrigation Area (BRIA), what is your currently held water allocation from the irrigation water scheme in megalitres (ML)?

 ML

5. How much of your current irrigation water requirements are from the following water sources? Please report your answer in volumes or proportions (%) in the table below.

Irrigation water source	Volume in ML	Percentage of your total irrigation water
Irrigation scheme		
Groundwater		
Overland flow and/or on-farm dams		
Total		100%

Section B: Thinking about the longer-term

It is important to understand your intentions in the long term (next 30 years). The following questions are designed to understand your current thinking about future investments in your farm and the subsequent water use.

6. Do you anticipate increasing your area of irrigation and for which crops?
- If yes, please specify the area (in hectares or acres) and the likely areas in the table below.
 - If no, please go to Section D: Wrapping up (on the final page).

Crop	Crop description if necessary	Approximate area
Cane		
Annual broadacre crops		
Annual horticulture crops		
Avocados		
Mangos		
Citrus		
Other (please state)		

7. How much of this expansion area was previously under irrigation of another crop?

Area: _____ or: _____ %

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Issues that influence your farm investment decisions

Below are several statements relating to key influences on farm investment that have been revealed through the project consultation process so far. Please tick (✓) the box that best represents your level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.

8. I am delaying any investment decision until the future of Burdekin Falls Dam is finalised and the region's future water supply requirements can be met.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

9. My investment plans assume demand for product from the region will continue to grow at the same rate as recent years.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

10. My investment plans assume commodity prices will remain at current levels.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

11. My investment plans are subject to the availability of investment capital (e.g. a loan).

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

12. My investment plans are subject to the ability of the irrigation distribution system to ensure reliable and timely delivery of additional water requirements.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

13. Climate change in the future (rainfall, runoff, more hot days) will impact my investment decisions and how I use water on the farm.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Section C: Future water purchases

The following questions build on your answers to the previous questions and relate to your future water purchases from the dam.

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Volumes and timing of investments in water allocations

14. Assume that the price of buying irrigation water is the same as recent years, reliability of the allocations is maintained, and the dam improvement works are completed in the next 5 years. How much additional water (above your answer to Question 4) do you think you would buy and over what time period?

We appreciate that it is difficult to accurately predict the future, so your best guess answers would be valuable.

Please enter your answer in the volume row/line and indicate your confidence in your answer by ticking (✓) the relevant box under your answer.

Period	Next 5 years		Between 5 & 10 years		Between 10 and 20 years		Between 20 and 30 years	
Volume (ML)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Confidence in your views	Very sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Very sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Somewhat sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>

The impact of different Sunwater charges

15. The future pricing of water services is still somewhat uncertain. It is important to understand if, and how changes to fixed (part A) water service charges or area-based charges paid to Lower Burdekin Water would impact on your future decisions to buy additional water allocations or extend your cropping area.

Please enter your answer in the appropriate boxes below.

Sunwater tariffs (part A) were....	My intentions would not change (tick box)	I would reduce the amount of water allocations I would buy (indicate % reduction)
10% higher than today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
25% higher than today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
50% higher than today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
More than 100% higher than today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

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Section D: Wrapping up

16. Are there any other key issues you would like to specify about your future investment decision (e.g. availability of grafted trees) or this dam-raising project in general? Please write your answer in the box below:

If you indicated you are interested in purchasing water in the next 5 years, would you like us to pass on your contact details to Sunwater to start that process. Please tick (✓) the relevant box below:

Yes , No

Would you like to enter the draw for **\$100 gift voucher** redeemable at any of the Woolworths-owned companies? If so, please ensure your full name and phone number is included here.

Name	Phone number

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. If you have further questions, please contact us at consult@nceconomics.com.

Please return this form by **Friday 30th October** to:

Burdekin Water Demand Survey
 c/o NCEconomics
 Suite 14, 36 Agnes Street
 Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

Alternatively, you could drop-off your completed survey questionnaire at any of the following locations:

- Burdekin Shire Council office
- Lower Burdekin Water offices
- Burdekin Canegrowers office
- Invicta Canegrowers office
- Pioneer Canegrowers office
- Kalamia Cane Growers office.