

# Public will get the chance to review project's environmental report

# Dam work to start in 2011

By **FALLON HUDSON**  
fallon.hudson@dailymercury.com.au

PLANS for the Connors River Dam and Pipelines project are well under way with construction of the project to begin as early as next year.

According to SunWater construction of the project is estimated to commence late 2011 and create more than 500 jobs during the construction with completion to be in late 2013.

SunWater project manager Sean Fleming said the construction of the dam and pipeline will require around 570 employees during peak construction time and once built six to eight employees will be needed to operate and maintain the dam.

He said a major milestone on the Connors River Dam investigation would be reached next month when the release of the project's environmental impact state-

ment (EIS).

He said the EIS document was largely complete and that SunWater was finalising its submissions.

He said once released the public would have the opportunity to review the EIS.

"A financial investment decision will be made later this year after SunWater has assessed and confirmed the level of commercial interest in the project from potential customers."

The proposed 56,000 mega litre dam on the Connors Rivers was revealed by SunWater in February with details of plans to build a water storage facility near Mount Bridget, about 110km east of Moranbah and 70km south of Sarina.

The Connors River Dam and Pipelines project was established after the Queensland Government released the Central Queensland Regional Water Supply Strategy as a medi-

um to long-term solution to meet future demands.

Mr Fleming said extensive on-site study over the past 12-months have been undertaken by the EIS specialists to assess the existing environment in both pre-and post-wet season climatic conditions.

Some of the investigations included extensive drilling of dam foundations; location of potential rock and sand quarry sites; assessment of pipeline alignment, construction risks and construction cost estimates.

As well as comprehensive survey of impoundment and pipeline corridor for presence of Aboriginal heritage and on-going rainfall and runoff measurements to refine hydrology models.

The 130km pipeline that will carry around 45,000mL to the Bowen Basin each year will start at the dam wall and proceed west to Moranbah.



**Work goes ahead in preparation for the Connors River Dam and Pipelines project which will create 500 jobs during construction. The plan aims to provide a medium to long-term solution to meet future demands for the Isaac-Connors subregion in Mackay's hinterland.**

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED