Submission 1

[redacted] - Longreach

Dear Planners - I have a few questions regarding the plan to raise the Longreach weirs by 1 metre.

1. Why wouldn't you just dredge it?

2. Have locals involved in the 2000 weir project been consulted? If so, where are your references to past research on previous weir projects? Can you please inform us of more details. For example, where are the rocks coming from? Assuming you are using rocks? I was a journalist at the local paper in the early 2000's, and so chatted briefly with a couple of people involved in the early 2000s weir project. One person involved said "I remember a guy who'd done weirs in Africa and the Middle East was on site, literally standing there and telling the team where to put each rock." And another said "There was an intense process to ascertain which were the superior rocks to use. For example, the rocks from Strathdarr were superior to Goodberry Hills." It seems external consultants may not have consulted with the wisdom and experience of existing local residents, former mayors, and council staff involved in the previous weir projects.

3. Perhaps most importantly of all, if you raise the weir, how can you ensure it will not cause a gouging out effect towards the end of the weir because of the black soil? Or will it flood out in the channels further upstream?

4. Is this $18.6 million weir raising project a waste of money?

RE: Smart Meters.

5. RE: PR statement: "These improvements are expected to increase our water storage capacity by 900 megalitres and reduce water loss by 245 megalitres per year. Is it by the weir construction itself that reduces water loss? Or through the use of Smart Meters putting greater restrictions on people's use? Could you explain more about how those savings are calculated?

Around the globe, a common thread emerging from published studies shows health damage (particularly to neurological, pulmonary, endocrine and immune systems) from smart meters. Electrical, magnetic field and radio frequency impacts are a serious concern. As a result I have some questions:

6. I would like to know whether decision makers are aware that Smart Meters have been shown to have negative effects on people's heart health and cardiovascular system?

7. Because of this potential damage to health, are you going to ensure citizens can permanently opt out of Smart Meters beyond the proposed 2030 compulsory deadline?

8. The nearby Over the Horizon Radar facility's transmitter and receiver emits radiation. How will decision makers test radiation levels from the added emissions by the proposed 5G tower and smart meters to ensure residents of the Longreach and surrounding region are protected?

9. Will you be liable for any health issues which may arise as a result of smart meters emitting radiation to household residents?

This video evidence, whilst perhaps considered anecdotal, demonstrates the fact that smart meters can affect heart health - Dr. Jack Kruse -

https://youtu.be/UlobFr3m8kk?si=BqiuNGZ8IcN1fFAd

Thanks in advance for taking the time to read and respond to these questions raised by the proposed weir raising project.

Submission 2

[redacted] - Longreach

As stated in Appendix C 'Thomson River Weir Raising Flood Impact Assessment NGH 25 Oct 2023':

"The purpose of the weir raising project is to secure a reliable water supply to support long-term needs of the community.... The project involves the raising of the Town Weir and associated Anabranch Weirs by 1 m to improve long-term water supply needs for Longreach."

My question is: Why wasn't the Town Weir and associated Anabranch Weirs raised to that height when the Fairmont weir was rebuilt? If it wasn't done then, would it be feasible now?

Considering also from Appendix C, beginning at the top of page 16 it reads:
"Localised velocity increases are noted downstream of the weirs up to approximately 0.5 m/s. Where increases occur, the magnitude of the post raising velocity is generally less than 1 m/s, therefore the increase is unlikely to materially affect or worsen erosion potential and it does not exceed any notable threshold for causing additional scour. This is, however, dependent on local conditions and we recommend that the areas immediately adjacent to and downstream of the weirs are monitored for scour or erosion following overtopping events."

Between the years [redacted] *I was the* [redacted] *at the Longreach Shire council and worked on updating the Longreach Drought Management Plan. I recall in office conversations that the weir heights could not be increased due to the potential scouring caused by flood waters around the weirs. It was stated then as fact and there might be buried reports somewhere in the archives to support this.*

It would be advisable to speak with Brian Egan, the Senior Works Supervisor at the Longreach Shire Council at the time of the building of the Fairmont Weir, to confirm this. Richard Moore would be another local that would have answers. There would also be councillors from that time who could confirm this. The fact that you have already stated this in your report suggests that it is a possible outcome which would undermine the effectiveness of raising the weir height and therefore result in a waste of money.

If you were to proceed, how far out would the extension of the weirs have to be built to prevent scouring, and what is the possibility of these extensions leading to additional flooding issues?

Lastly, has dredging the buildup of silt bars being considered as a possible solution, especially at the Town Weir, to increase water storage?