

each step with respect to review and public consultation are fixed durations. It is also recommended that allowance for adequate time contingency be included for the Approval phase.

A further lesson learnt is that land acquisition should first and foremost be on the basis of a negotiated agreement. The compulsory acquisition process needs to be run in parallel as a contingency plan.

3. LESSONS LEARNT - EPC CONTRACTOR

The key lessons learnt from the EPC Contractor since mobilisation to the Project site are as follows:

- Early mobilisation and acceleration of program critical items has allowed the EPC Contractor to maintain program despite any setbacks with respect to logistics, specifically supply of items, availability and breakdown of key plant and the remoteness of the Project in terms of availability of personnel and COVID-19 related restrictions for travel interstate.
- Trial works for the Wises Dam have resulted in unforeseen conditions being encountered resulting in minor amendments to dam design. The geotechnical investigations (boreholes and seismic survey) undertaken did not fully identify these unexpected conditions. The collaboration between design and construction teams has been shown to be strongly valuable to ensure an optimal design.
- The provision of an electrical reticulation system including earthing has been delayed due to supply lead times for distribution boards. All electrical works on the Project are taking longer than expected due to supply constraints. Temporary measures with diesel generators are also assisting EPC Contractor.
- Explosives licences from the Regulator have taken more time to obtain than anticipated. Early lodgement is required. Mitigation involves using packaged explosives in the short term.
- The ground conditions for the main access tunnel (MAT) being encountered (110m tunnelled) are as expected or better resulting in simpler ground support types being adopted early in the MAT length.
- The wet season results in the site access road being periodically unpassable due to water over the causeway. Whilst workers are flying in and out of site, logistics by road transport needs to be planned in advance to ensure sufficient supply onsite. Although sufficient supply of materials etc was onsite during the recent wet weather event (early Feb 2022), the importance of early procurement and road transport logistics needs to be always front of mind.