

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

Ewen Maddock Dam

March 2020

What's happening

Sunshine Coast contractor, Hall Contracting has been announced as the successful contractor for the Ewen Maddock Dam upgrade. Work will start at the end of March on the \$24 million Ewen Maddock Dam upgrade that will create up to 70 local jobs.

The 18-month project will bring the dam in line with modern engineering design standards and improve the existing beach and swimming area. Seqwater is ensuring all publicly-owned water infrastructure meets modern engineering and safety standards.

This project is part of an ongoing dam improvement program that ensures all of Seqwater dams perform safely, well into the future.

Construction on the first stage is planned to begin at the end of March and will involve raising and strengthening the existing embankment walls with significant improvements to the recreation area.

The dam's water level will have to be lowered to about 60 per cent of its full supply to allow the works to proceed.

Seqwater Chief Executive Officer Neil Brennan said the designated swimming and beach area as well as Maddock Park will need to close for up to 18 months during the project. Seqwater understands that Ewen Maddock Dam is a very popular recreation destination and apologises for any inconvenience to the local community.

Seqwater is staging construction to reduce the amount of time water levels have to be lowered and to minimise the closure of the lake. New access points have been built to allow the multi-use trails to remain open during this period.

Seqwater encourages visitors to use the recently upgraded facilities in the Ornamental wetlands picnic area on Steve Irwin Way as an alternative recreation location.

Seqwater aims to re-open for recreation as soon as practical once the stage one of upgrade works are complete.

The next stage of the works will involve strengthening the existing spillway and will be subject to a separate tender process. The timing of Stage 2 works is expected to be finalised by end of the year.

Community information pop-up stalls will be held at the Ewen Maddock Park beach area during March.

Recreation upgrades

On-water recreation, including the designated swimming and beach area, will be closed as part of the Upgrade project from Monday 30 March 2020.

Seqwater has implemented alternate access points to keep the multi-use trails around the lake open during the upgrade. Seqwater has also recently built a new horse float unloading area with Maddock Park to ensure continued access for horse riders during the upgrade.

Seqwater has significantly invested in the Ornamental wetlands picnic area, on Steve Irwin Way to help provide an alternate recreation location during the upgrade. We have recently installed pumps for the wetlands, upgraded picnic tables, resurfaced the access and parking facilities and installed a new toilet block near to the Brew haha Café to significantly enhance this area and make the wetlands a fantastic, picnic destination.

Did you know?

Background – Dam Improvement Program

In Queensland, dam owners are responsible for the safety of their dams under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 (the Act). The Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (DNRME) requires Seqwater to comply with the Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines under the Act. Like all dam operators across the country, we also seek to meet the national guidelines set by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD). Our Dam Improvement Program considers all of these factors, so our dams can operate as they should, now and into the future. There are some key changes since Ewen Maddock Dam was built, which impact on its compliance with the dam safety guidelines, including:

- the latest estimates of extreme rainfall
- data from flood events and updated flood modelling
- improved understanding of earthquake probabilities and loads
- significant population growth downstream
- advances in dam design and development of consistent methodologies for assessment of dam condition

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We will be sending regular e-updates on the progress of this project to keep you informed. This is the best way to get the latest information, so if you know someone who might be interested in this project encourage them to subscribe by clicking [here](#).

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Sign up to our dam release notification service to be notified when Ewen Maddock Dam is spilling. This free service provides subscribers with notifications by email, SMS or recorded messages to telephone landlines when gated dams are releasing water or un-gated dams are spilling. [Register](#) now to get dam alerts or download the [Seqwater app](#) from the App Store or Google Play on your device.

For more information

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