

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project - CRG

Date and Time	12 February 2025; 3:30pm-5:30pm
Location	Cooroy Library, Cooroy
Project team attendees	Four Seqwater representatives Three John Holland representatives Two ODAPTIC representatives–Jessica Gallienne, Jennifer Ritchie CRG – Paul O’Hare, Philip Moran, Russell Manning, Nick Cooke, Brad Wedlock
Apologies	Trish Gray, Kerry Jones, Norman Bond
Purpose	Meeting 2 of the Lake Macdonald CRG

Meeting Minutes

Item	Description
1.	<p>ODAPTIC welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance.</p> <p>Administrative Actions</p> <p>Update to ToR</p> <p>Members approved the following changes:</p> <p>The Secretariat will continue to distribute meeting minutes within 14 working days following each meeting. Members will then have five (5) business days to confirm their endorsement via email to the Secretariat. If no confirmation is received within this timeframe, the minutes will be considered endorsed.</p> <p>This differs from the previous process, where formal endorsement was to occur at the subsequent meeting. The proposed change will allow for the timely publication of endorsed minutes on the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project webpage, ensuring greater transparency and accessibility.</p> <p>Member Name and Photo Consent</p> <p>Consent was given for names to be published in the meeting minutes and on the LMDIP website. This will allow members of the public to contact CRG members to raise issues or concerns.</p> <p>Photo consent forms –The Seqwater talent release form is attached to the minutes. CRG Members to sign and return to ODAPTIC.</p>

2.	<p>Outstanding actions from the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haulage – update provided in Section 5 of these meeting minutes. • Newsletters were sent in December 2024 and January 2025. Future newsletters will be provided via email to distribution list and on LMDIP web page. • Fishing platform – will reopen when construction is complete (2029). Paul O'Hare raised that the public are unhappy with the fishing platform being closed. Seqwater advised it is a safety issue and is necessary to keep people away from the coffer dam. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Holland noted that earlier notification of concerns may have allowed an opportunity to open the fishing platform during the Christmas break. • Fish hatchery – in clearing zone. Seqwater advised there are no plans at this stage. Previous agreements were closed out in 2018/19. During the meeting it was stated that the fish hatchery building would be demolished as part of the construction site. However, this information is incorrect. It has since been confirmed that the fish hatchery building will not be demolished as originally discussed in the CRG. The building will be retained.
3.	<p>Communication updates</p> <p>Seqwater presented the communication update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Coordinator-General (OCG) consultation summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seqwater are making every effort to keep the community informed about the project, upcoming developments and to gather feedback. ○ Seqwater submitted a project change application to the OCG relating to proposed changes to the temporary cofferdam design for water security reasons. Community invited to make submissions - only one received. 3 government submissions were received (DTMR, DETSI and Noosa Shire Council (NSC)). ○ A consultation summary report of engagement will be submitted to the OCG. • Themes of ongoing engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community info sessions – have held 3; one remaining will be held in Pomona ○ Newsletter ○ Public consultation ○ Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment ▪ Construction impacts ▪ Project timing ▪ Work opportunities ▪ Project scope ▪ Traffic and speed ○ Consultation summary will be developed and made public ○ Upcoming engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooroy State School – February 2025 meeting ▪ Noosa Shire DA public comment – Lake Macdonald Rowing Club – opens 17 February closes 10 March 2025 ▪ Seqwater and NSC project working group – 25 February 2025 ▪ Project newsletter – April 2025

4.

Flora and fauna impacts

John Holland presented details on flora and fauna impacts.

- Details / methodology of surveys undertaken
- Lake Macdonald Aquatic Biomass Survey
 - Survey was conducted in November 2024 prior to massive rain events. Problems with levels changing dramatically. Final week of surveying this week. Indicative results in. Final report will likely be a couple of weeks away.
 - Platypus and E-DNA samples will determine what species are present in the lake and will potentially need relocation during lake drawdown.
- Survey results
 - Found no pest species (tilapia).
 - Caught 10,000+ fish and released them
 - Over 1000 turtles, mostly common longnecks, turtles were tagged
 - Species management plan developed. Aquatic fauna relocation plan will be developed once final results of the survey have been received.
 - If required, species will be relocated to Cooloolabin Dam
 - Platypus E-DNA results – map in presentation showed where samples were taken and the results.
- Time lapsed cameras will be installed in 10 locations. Photos will be taken approximately every 30 seconds.
- Vegetation clearing
 - No sitings of koala, in the areas nominated as potential habitat
 - John Holland advised Landcare is interested in sourcing plants that are thriving and not affected by myrtle rust.
- Initiatives
 - Several initiatives were outlined that are currently being progressed in the project area.
 - Logs for Cod
 - Habitat stacks – working with NSC. They are taking some felled project timber from clearing works for local habitat stack programs. This reduces the need to mulch.
 - Phil Moran said the habitat stacks are great for little critters
 - Cash for cans income will be donated to local Koala rescue groups
 - Kabi Kabi First Nations People invited to salvage project timbers / significant trees and participate in protected plants seed salvage and propagation program.
- Concern was raised about the area between Perch Park and the playground which has become overgrown. There does not appear to be a clear owner to take responsibility for its upkeep.
 - Seqwater advised the park is a designated NSC park.
 - John Holland advised this issue would be raised at the next combined meeting with NSC, and report back to the CRG.

5.

Traffic Management Plan

- Truck haulage routes
 - Seqwater presented the traffic management plan. The final plan from Designers, SMEC, was received. The plan then needs to go through TMR, NSC and the OCG.
 - Four quarries have been approved for the project. They are Cordwells at Kin Kin, Holcim at Beerburum, Boral at Moy Pocket and Corbets at Traveston. These were identified as the best options due to travel time and existing road conditions.
 - Paul O'Hare noted that Holcim is the only company coming from the south that would need to negotiate the bridge via Myall Street. He asked whether pressure could be applied to TMR to install a roundabout.
 - Seqwater responded that approval would be needed for any access involving the rail corridor.
 - Phil Moran enquired whether discussions were taking place with the NSC regarding the dirt section of Collwood Road, noting that it would deteriorate under heavy use.
 - John Holland clarified that heavy vehicles are not permitted on Collwood Road. The main entrance is via Lake Macdonald Drive, with Collwood Road only to be used in exceptional circumstances with approval.
 - Paul O'Hare mentioned that neighbours had questioned why trucks could not use Collwood Road. It was clarified that it was not approved by the OCG as there was stakeholder feedback and concerns from residents in that area.
- Truck movements
 - Seqwater presented the predicted monthly heavy vehicle movement graph.
 - Paul O'Hare enquired about the timing of restrictions for truck movements, specifically whether they were limited to 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM.
 - Seqwater explained that there will be restrictions on heavy vehicle two-way flows during school peak hours. Trucks may be preloaded early to avoid the school peak times, streamlining the process for maximum utilisation.
 - Truck movements will be restricted – expected to finish by approximately 4:30pm.
 - Seqwater explained that 24-hour work will be necessary for demolition activities. Outside of the demolition period, night work is not required, though occasional exceptions may occur, such as to complete a concrete pour or out of hours deliveries which will require approval.
 - Seqwater stated that night movements are not planned but emphasised the importance of gathering feedback from this group. It was highlighted two main considerations: weather conditions and restrictions, on when hauling can occur.
 - Paul O'Hare responded that there would likely be pushback from local residents on night movements.
- Traffic Impact Assessment
 - Biggest impact Elm Street and Lake Macdonald Drive
 - Semi trailer movements struggle to make the turn
 - Seqwater proposing to do localised widening
 - Aiming to commence in the September school holidays to minimise impacts
 - Road Safety Audit
 - Some upgrades required, signage replaced, overgrown vegetation etc

- Nick Cooke raised concerns about Pomona Kin Kin Road, noting that it has 26 deficient corners. He questioned why this quarry had been chosen, as he had raised this issue over a year ago.
 - Seqwater clarified that the quarry is an approved site by TMR.
 - Nick asked whether all routes and road conditions had been checked for safety, specifically addressing turning circles and road conditions. Seqwater responded that an impact assessment had been conducted, but turning circles were not included in the assessment.
 - Nick referred to a report from TMR that identified a significant safety risk due to increased truck traffic. He pointed out that 26 corners on the route are narrow enough that drivers would need to cross the centre line, which increases the risk. Seqwater responded that while crossing the centre line is allowed, it is not preferred.
 - Seqwater mentioned that he had spoken to TMR last week about driver awareness, particularly regarding tight corners. They noted that trucks are monitored for speed and erratic driving, and any concerns should be communicated to the project team.
 - Seqwater will follow up with TMR to gather information on specific locations of the 26 deficient corners on Pomona Kin Kin Road and determine what should be incorporated in the driver awareness program.
- Dilapidation Assessment
 - Project is working with TMR and NSC on planned pavement maintenance activities.
 - If CRG notice any areas of dilapidation, notify the project team.
- Lake Macdonald Drive
 - 6-8 weeks of works will be required for removal of embankment
 - 6-8 weeks of works required to establish the new embankment
 - Single lane will be in operation during this time with 24 hour traffic lights controlling flow
 - Paul O'Hare raised concerns that traffic signs are often ignored once people become accustomed to them. He suggested reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h from the corner near the botanic gardens to improve safety.
 - Seqwater responded the speed limit will be reduced as per the MUTCD (Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices) guidelines. Any changes outside the project's zone fall under NSC's jurisdiction.
 - Seqwater expressed concern about the corner near the botanic gardens, where vehicles pull out onto the road while trucks approach. She suggested that reducing the speed to 40 km/h could improve safety and should be implemented 80 metres before the designated speed reduction zone. However, this is outside of Seqwater's scope and footprint and falls with NSC to make a decision.
 - John Holland advised that often, if speed reductions are put in place too soon before the works are visible (ie back at the botanic gardens), we won't get speed compliance.
 - Seqwater will raise this issue at the next meeting with NSC and report back to the CRG.

6.	Construction Phasing Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Holland provided an overview of the construction phases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained that Stage 0 is almost complete and we're awaiting OCG approval to commence Stage 1 works. Provided a brief overview of Stages 2-4 including demolition, construction and removal of the cofferdam. Provided more detail of Stage 1 with upcoming cofferdam works, explaining the siphon system, the rock push and sheet piling. Further details and progress photos of the cofferdam will be presented at the next CRG.
7.	Future Meeting Discussions Gympie Weir <p>Brad Wedlock raised there was a desire in the community to bring forward the works at Gympie Weir and asked whether this could occur in conjunction with LMDIP.</p> <p>Seqwater advised they are investigating options, but the project may require EPCB referral, which could take up to 18 months for approval. Seqwater has begun preliminary investigation works.</p> Community Sponsorships <p>Paul O'Hare raised the topic of community sponsorships.</p> <p>Seqwater responded that they are exploring broader sponsorship opportunities to support community organisations, events and initiatives as part of their social licence efforts and are seeking feedback from the community.</p> <p>Paul O'Hare suggested Seqwater might like to consider sponsoring the botanic gardens first Sunday of the month event.</p> <p>Further discussions on community sponsorships will take place at the August 2025 CRG.</p>
8.	Questions <p>Phil Moran asked if Seqwater could attend the meeting with the Deputy Director-General. The Deputy Director-General is a key decision-making stakeholder, and Seqwater attendance would be valuable. Seqwater advised their relevant Executive is focused on building this relationship.</p> <p>The meeting minutes and presentation will be available on the CRG tab on Seqwater LMDIP project page. If you have any issues finding or accessing the content, contact Seqwater for assistance.</p>

Action items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Return signed photo consent form (attached) to the Secretariat	CRG Members
2.	Raise concerns about the overgrown area between Perch Park and the playground with Noosa Shire Council at the next combined meeting. Report back to the CRG with an update.	Seqwater
3.	Follow up with TMR to gather information regarding the specific locations of the 26 deficient corners on Pomona Kin Kin Road and determine what should be incorporated in the driver awareness program.	Seqwater
4.	Discuss reduction in speed limits on Lake Macdonald Drive around botanic garden with Noosa Shire Council and report back to the CRG.	Seqwater

Forward Agenda items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Gympie Weir Upgrade	Seqwater
2.	Community Sponsorships	Seqwater

The meeting closed at 5:20pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 21 May 2025**.