

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project

Lake lowering and upcoming construction activities

April 2025

Dear Neighbour,

The Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project is part of Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program. The upgrade will reduce risks and ensure the dam functions safely during extreme weather events, achieves regulatory compliance and ensures the continued reliability of this water source for the Sunshine Coast region for years to come.

Lake lowering and construction works

In October 2024, Seqwater began lowering Lake Macdonald to 42% capacity (a drop of 2.3 metres) using gravity siphons over the dam wall. This was a precautionary safety measure ahead of the 2024/2025 wet season to help manage catchment inflows and reduce the risk of major overflows.

Project approvals for the main construction works are currently being finalised. Once approved, the lake lowering will be transitioned to a larger siphon system, which was installed during early works. This upgraded system is expected to become operational in May 2025 and will continue lowering the lake to the 42% level.

Environmental considerations

The larger siphon system will enable increased control of water releases to minimise downstream impacts. Most recreational spaces, including Noosa Botanic Gardens, will remain open unless notified otherwise. Mary River Cod Park and the boat ramp will be closed for the duration of the project. Regular environmental monitoring, including water quality and aquatic fauna assessments, will be undertaken throughout the project.

Temporary upstream cofferdam

Construction will commence on the temporary upstream cofferdam concurrent with ongoing lake lowering. The purpose of the upstream cofferdam is to provide a temporary wall to allow dewatering of the enclosed area between the cofferdam and the existing dam wall, providing a safer work area to demolish the existing dam wall.

The cofferdam also allows water to remain in the dam, minimising impacts on aquatic life and allowing some recreational activities to continue where safe and practical to do so.

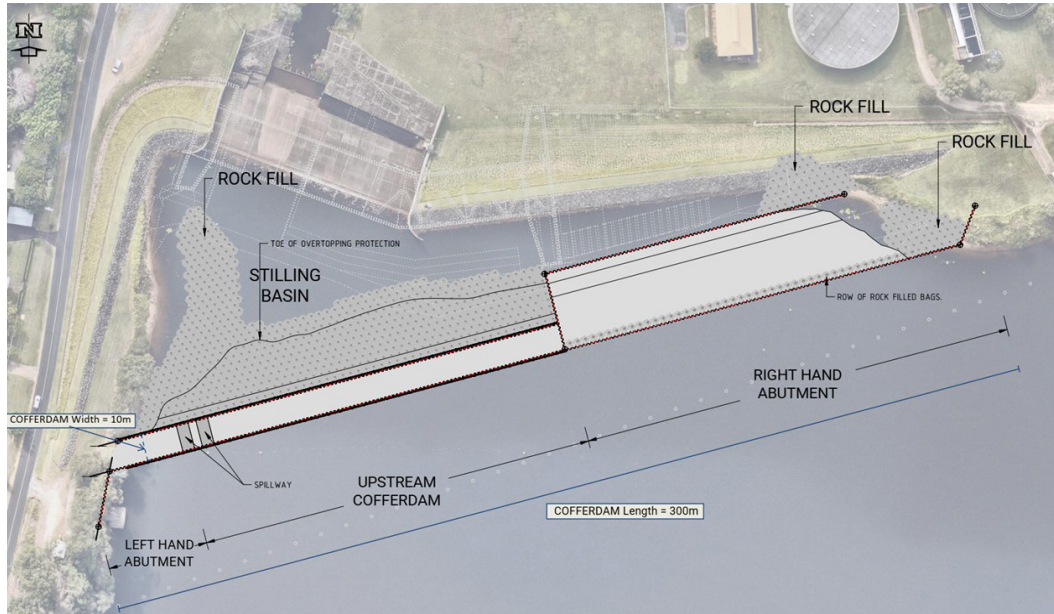
The cofferdam will be built to meet industry standards as set out by the Dam Safety Regulator. Public access to the cofferdam will not be permitted and an exclusion zone will be in place.

Construction timing

Works will be undertaken between:

- 6:30am - 6:30pm, Monday - Friday.
- 6:30am - 4:00pm, Saturday.

All construction activities are subject to weather and construction conditions.



Construction activities for 2025:

- Mobilisation of stockpiled rock and other materials and equipment.
- Piling equipment mobilised onsite for cofferdam construction.
- Lake lowering and cofferdam construction.

What to expect during these works:

- Traffic controllers onsite, reduced speed limits, and traffic signals. Minor travel delays are expected, so please allow extra time.
- Increased noise, dust, and vibration.
- Increased construction and heavy vehicle movements.
- Pedestrian and property access will be maintained.
- School buses will be given right of way.
- Additional minor clearing for access tracks and haul roads.

Every effort will be made to minimise impacts on the local community and environment while work is undertaken.

For more detail on construction mitigation please visit the project webpage for fact sheets.

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping the community informed throughout the project.

Please sign up to Seqwater's free dam release notification service available at <https://www.seqwater.com.au/dam-release-notification-service>.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while this work is carried out to help ensure the long-term safety and reliability of Lake Macdonald Dam.

Regards,

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project Team

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Scan the QR code for more information:

