

Leslie Harrison Dam Improvement Upgrade

Community consultation on proposed construction traffic routes

29 November 2017 – 5 February 2018

Feedback report



Background

Leslie Harrison Dam is an earth fill dam on Tingalpa Creek in the Redland City Council area and is one of the 12 drinking water supply dams in the SEQ Water Grid. It was constructed in 1967/8 by (then) Redland Shire Council as an un-gated dam. The water level in the dam was raised in 1984 to increase the drinking water storage capacity for the growing Redlands region. This upgrade included the installation of four vertical lift gates on the spillway crest.

Ownership of the dam was transferred to Seqwater in 2008. In 2012/3 an independent review found safety improvements were required at Leslie Harrison Dam to meet the current Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines. The spillway gates were removed and the water level lowered in 2014/5 to reduce water pressure loads on the dam wall while upgrade options were investigated.

The detailed design for the upgrade has now been completed and construction works are planned to commence mid-2018. The upgrade will include:

- widening and strengthening of the dam wall
- anchoring the spillway at the crest and the lower end
- improving resilience to extreme weather events and earthquakes
- modifying the water intake tower to improve flood immunity

The dam gates will not be reinstated and the previous full supply level will not be restored as part of the upgrade. Investigations found returning the gates in a manner compliant with the current Queensland Dam Safety Management Guidelines would require in excess of \$18 million in additional works and the resumption of private property. Returning the gates would not improve long-term water supply reliability, because of the benefits already provided through the SEQ Water Grid.

As part of planning for construction work, Seqwater commissioned an independent traffic management assessment to identify suitable routes for heavy vehicles to transport materials to and from the site. This plan identified six potential routes. An internal assessment eliminated two of those as impractical, unsafe or having unacceptable impacts. Seqwater also determined the use of existing streets (known as the Willowie Cres option) would not be suitable for heavy vehicles for public safety reasons, but could be used for light vehicles.

An assessment of the remaining three options (known as the Dam Rd, Howlett Rd and Killarney Cres options) found that all had significant impacts in terms of disturbance, environmental impacts, public safety and water quality. The nature and severity of those impacts varied between routes, and there was no easily identifiable 'best' option.

All three options plus the Willowie Cres option were presented to the community for consultation between 29 November 2017 and 5 February 2018. Consultation included a Social Pinpoint interactive map, a series of dam tours, information sessions, media advertising, web content and distribution of flyers. The purpose of this consultation was to understand the community's issues, concerns and preferences, and use that information in making a decision about construction traffic access routes.



Proposed construction traffic routes



Reach of consultation – who we spoke to

During the consultation period, we provided information through a range of online, print and face-to-face methods. The table below provides more detail.

Source of information	# reached
Project webpage	1,722
Interactive map (Social Pinpoint)	696
Flyer distribution	435
Letters sent by post	801
eNews update	308
Dam tours	116
Information sessions	22
Direct contact (phone or email)	37
Social media	10,419
Newspaper advertising	Unknown <i>Up to 47,000 households</i>

We received detailed feedback from a large number of community members. The table below shows how people chose to provide their feedback.

Method of feedback	# received
Interactive map (Social Pinpoint)	164
At dam tours	116
At information sessions	22
By phone	7
By email	23
Total	530

This feedback represented a broad range of community interests including residents living within the water catchment, along the proposed traffic routes, the broader community, elected representatives and community groups.



Outcomes of consultation – what you told us

We thank everyone for taking the time to provide feedback. There were some issues that the community generally agreed on, while on other issues we saw a range of views expressed. Seqwater has listened to all of these views and they will be considered in the decision making process for the dam upgrade. Information provided by community members will help us improve our construction planning and deliver the project in a way that addresses community concerns.

The table below provides a summary of the key issues raised during the consultation period, in order of how frequently they were raised.

Number	Issue	Seqwater response
1	Traffic impacts on Mount Cotton Rd, Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road and local streets	We recognise the community concern regarding the impact of heavy vehicles on local streets and arterial roads. We will work with Brisbane City Council and Redland City Council and the Contractor (when appointed) to develop a traffic management plan that addresses these concerns. A summary of the traffic management plan will be shared with the community before construction work begins.
2	Impact on residents including: Noise; dust; vibration; increased traffic on local streets; risks to health (eg asthma)	We acknowledge that, regardless of which access route is used, some local residents will be impacted. Mitigation measures will be used to reduce the impact of noise and dust during construction. We are committed to keeping affected residents informed throughout the project, and minimising impacts as much as possible. We will also provide a complaints hotline for local residents to directly raise concerns.
3	Environmental impacts including: Tree clearing; wildlife corridors; threatened species; breeding areas; compounding impacts if more than one route is used	We recognise the significant value this community places on the wildlife and bushland areas around the dam. As managers of the Leslie Harrison Dam Nature Refuge area, we share these values. Mitigation measures will be used to reduce the impact on the environment throughout construction. A summary of the environmental management plan for the project will be shared with the community before construction work begins, and we will update

Number	Issue	Seqwater response
		<p>the community throughout the project on environmental outcomes. We will work with Brisbane City Council and Redland City Council to rehabilitate and restore areas disturbed during the work.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Pedestrian safety including: Children travelling to and from school; playground access; school bus stop</p>	<p>Safety is always our number one priority, and we will make sure that pedestrian safety is addressed in traffic management plans for construction works. This will include specifically highlighting school zones where children and families are more likely to be walking as well as local playgrounds and transport services. A summary of the traffic management plan will be shared with the community before construction work begins.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Recreation including comments both in favour of and opposed to the introduction of recreation on or around Leslie Harrison Dam.</p>	<p>When Seqwater started managing the dam in 2008, we continued Redland City Council's policy of not allowing recreation on the dam, due to the risk to water quality in a key drinking water supply. Since then, we have completed a scientific assessment of the risk associated with various forms of recreation. This assessment found that, at both the current and previous water levels, on-water recreation poses unacceptable risks to water quality. We understand that many community members would like more access to Leslie Harrison Dam. However, we have no plans to introduce recreation on the dam in the foreseeable future.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Other issues including: local development, impacts on water quality; flood risk; storm water drainage; catchment management; and ongoing communication with residents.</p>	<p>We have noted community concern about other issues associated with the management of Leslie Harrison Dam and its catchment area. We will continue work with our neighbours to improve catchment health, provide input to Brisbane City Council and Redland City Council regarding local development and will keep the community informed of our activities.</p>

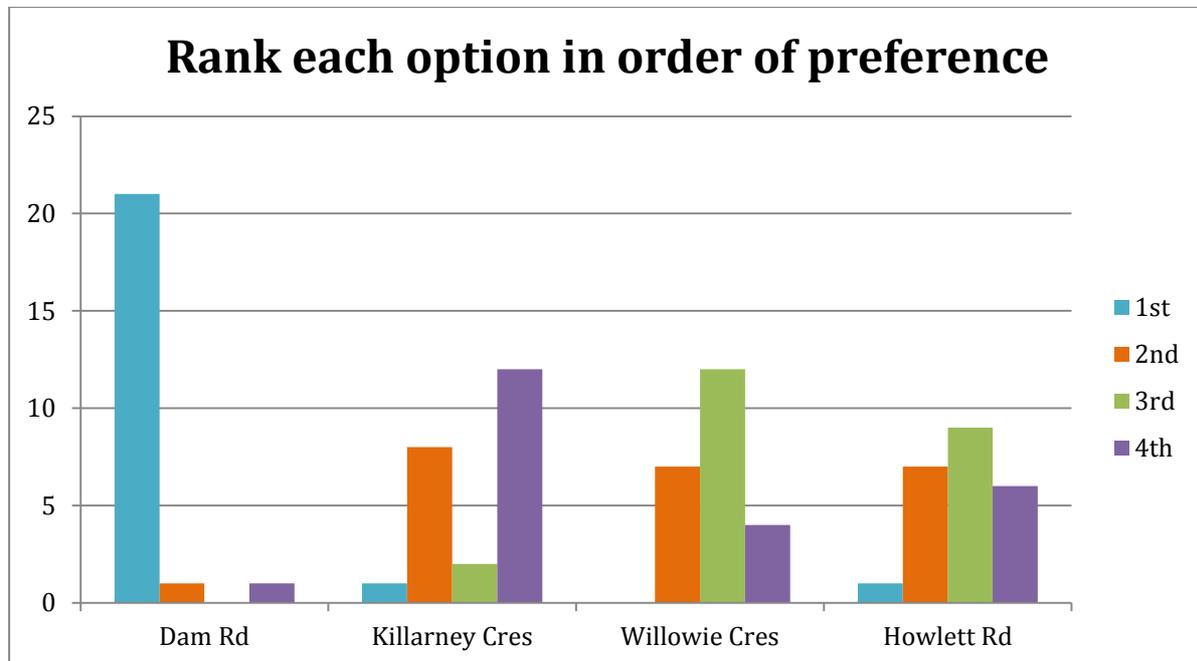
Feedback report

Community and resident concerns varied between the proposed construction access routes. The table below provides a brief summary of community and resident feedback about each route. All feedback received will be considered by the project team.

Proposed route	Community feedback
Willowie Cres	Most community members agreed this option posed significant safety risks for both other vehicles and pedestrians due to the sharp bends and narrow streets and was not suitable for large trucks. There was also recognition that this option had the lowest environmental impact and was the only one that did not require new tracks to be constructed.
Killarney Cres	Traffic conditions at the intersection of Killarney Cres and Mount Cotton Road, particularly at peak hour, were of concern to residents. There were many reports of wildlife living in or moving through the bushland area beside Tingalpa Creek, and concern about both the long term and short term impacts on the environment. A number of community members raised concerns about the safety of children walking to and from school or using the playground on Killarney Cres. Storm water run-off and flooding in the area around the proposed access track were also raised. Residents also expressed concern about the impacts on properties very close to the proposed access track along the creek.
Howlett Rd	There were many reports of wildlife living in the bushland areas around Howlett Rd, and significant concern about the impact on wildlife corridors and protected vegetation, as well as water quality along the reservoir rim. Residents were also concerned that truck drivers would speed up when approaching hills, or find it difficult to slow down when coming down hills. Concerns were raised about the safety of large trucks on the single lane section. Some residents were concerned about the safety of children walking to and from school or playing. Residents expressed concern about the impact on properties adjacent to the proposed route. There were suggestions that an access track at the end of Howlett Rd could be used in the future for recreation.
Dam Rd	Dam Road is the clear preference of the community, largely due to its lower social impact on residents and the reduced traffic impact on Mount Cotton Road. There were some concerns about the environmental impact of the route, particularly the Tingalpa Creek crossing and vegetation clearing, and the cumulative impacts if a secondary route is also required. There were also concerns raised about the impact on Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road. Many community members suggested a solution to the constraints in crossing Tingalpa Creek could be found with additional engineering investigations.

Feedback report

The Interactive Map (Social Pinpoint) site included a series of surveys to allow community members to rate each proposed construction access route. The survey results show a clear preference for Dam Rd. Willowie Cres, Killarney Cres and Howlett Rd were similarly ranked in survey results, and the difference is not considered significant between these options.



Next steps

The next step in the decision-making process is to meet with local council officers to discuss the approval requirements, access routes and community concerns. We will also be discussing the construction access challenges with the Contractor appointed for the upgrade work to determine the most appropriate option/options. A decision on preferred traffic routes and traffic management will be made in conjunction with Brisbane City Council and Redland City Council and the Contractor.

Additional investigations will be made to inform the decisions. This is likely to include engineering design work, environmental surveys and geotechnical (soil) surveys, and may be completed on all proposed routes.

Information gathered from the community, from additional investigations and from Brisbane City and Redland City councils will be used by Seqwater and the Contractor to inform development of a traffic management plan, an environmental management plan, a safety management plan, and a range of other documents explaining how they will manage the impacts of the project on the community.

Stay informed

We will provide regular updates to the community about progress with investigations, planning and decision making. Summaries of the environmental management and traffic management plans will be published on the project webpage and shared with residents near the access routes.

Construction is expected to start mid-2018, with site establishment and early work starting around May 2018. Early work will include constructing access routes and installing facilities for construction workers.

The easiest way to stay informed of progress with planning and construction is to subscribe to email updates at <http://www.seqwater.com.au/damimprovement>.

