

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project

AUGUST
2025



John Holland has commenced construction to upgrade Seqwater's Lake Macdonald Dam, a key project in the Dam Improvement Program, to ensure the dam meets modern engineering and design standards to ensure it continues to operate safely and provide water security for years to come.

Project update

Commissioning of the larger siphon system is now complete, and the siphons will be responsible for maintaining the lowered lake level at approximately 42% (a reduction of 2.3 metres).

Current onsite activities include:

- Piling work for the temporary cofferdam
- Construction of internal haul roads
- Environmental surveys, assessments and monitoring.



Land piles on the left abutment.



Large siphon system for lake lowering.

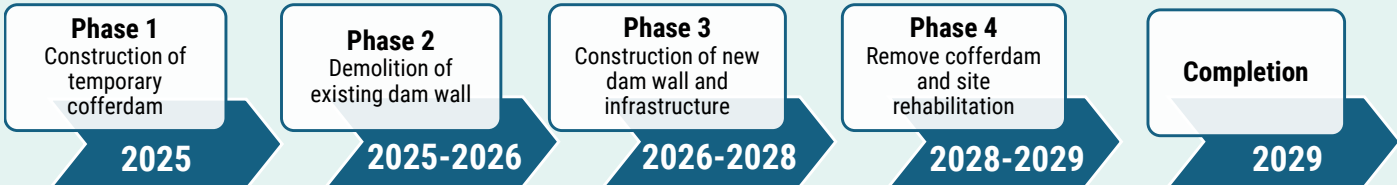
Lake lowering and piling underway

The project is in Phase 1, which includes lowering the lake and building a temporary cofferdam.

Piling work has started on both sides of the dam wall - first on land, and now moving into the water. This will continue until late 2025, as we prepare for the demolition phase. We will share more details about demolition closer to that stage.

During the piling work, nearby residents may experience an increase in noise and vibration. Noise and vibration monitors have been setup along Lake Macdonald Drive and the project team will continue to work with the community to mitigate construction impacts where possible.

**Note, all construction activities are subject to weather and construction conditions, therefore the timeframes are subject to change.*



Environmental management

John Holland and Seqwater are working with the Kabi Kabi peoples, undertaking onsite monitoring, site walks and Cultural Heritage management. Some trees have been kept aside for Kabi Kabi cultural uses, and for Noosa Shire Council for habitat stacks.

Noosa Landcare visited site to harvest native guava seeds and propagate through cuttings. 325 plants have successfully propagated from this activity – aiming for more than 500 by the end of the year.

Aquatic fauna specialists have been monitoring upstream and downstream conditions around the dam wall during lake lowering to minimise the impact on aquatic life. Fish salvage operations were recently completed and in one week, 683 large bodied fish were relocated to Cooloolabin Dam. One Mary River Cod was caught and released into the Mary River.

We will continue to work with the relevant experts and comply with the project's approved management plans. All measures are in place to ensure we protect and manage wildlife during activities onsite.



Mary River Cod which was released back into the Mary River.



Noosa Landcare propagating native guava seeds from site.

Elm Street and Lake Macdonald Drive intersection upgrade

Starting mid-September, for 6 – 8 weeks, the intersection of Elm Street and Lake Macdonald Drive will be upgraded. The upgrade includes widening the intersection to ensure heavy vehicles can safely turn in and out of Lake Macdonald Drive, removing the need for ongoing traffic controllers to manage heavy vehicles. It will also improve safety for all road users and pedestrians.

The local residents, and those signed up to the project database, will receive a separate update about these works, including additional advance notification of night works.

Standard working hours - reminder

Approved working hours are:

- Monday to Friday: 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Due to the nature of the construction, certain activities will take place outside these hours. We will notify nearby residents in advance of any such work and will outline the specific activities, expected duration and any measures in place to mitigate impacts.

Heavy vehicle access reminder

Heavy vehicles will continue to use Elm Street and Lake Macdonald Drive for the duration of the project.

The approved route for trucks travelling to and from Cooroy is via Exit 237. Using Exit 230 is only permitted in special cases and must be approved by John Holland, Seqwater and Noosa Shire Council.

For more details, check out the Traffic Management Fact Sheet on the Seqwater website.

Contact Us

For more details, visit our project webpage or contact us anytime. We are here to listen and assist.

w www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project

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For assistance in languages other than English, call **131 450**. For hearing or speech impairments, contact the National Relay Service at **07 3035 5500** or visit www.relayservice.gov.au.

