

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project - CRG

Date and Time	11 August 2025 3:30pm-5:30pm
Location	Cooroy Library, Cooroy
Attendees	Seqwater: 3 members John Holland: 2 members CRG – Paul O'Hare, Philip Moran, Trish Gray, Nick Cooke, Russell Manning, Brad Wedlock ODAPTIC – Jessica Gallienne, Alana McDermaid
Apologies	Kerry Jones, Norman Bond
Purpose	Meeting 4 of the Lake Macdonald CRG

Meeting Minutes

Item	Description
1.	Welcome and Introductions ODAPTIC opened the meeting and welcomed all members. Introductions from Seqwater, John Holland, and CRG members. Acknowledgement of Country delivered.
2.	Administrative Update - Media release/talent forms – all received. Construction Site Tour: Next meeting to be held onsite and to include a site tour, PPE to be provided by John Holland. - Ongoing monitoring of noise, dust and vibration – no breaches recorded to date. - Residents encouraged to provide immediate feedback via hotline for timely investigation and responses - Cracks reported in nearby property ceiling, from water ingress, and will be addressed via their insurance. - Speed limit reduction request – Council not supportive, police random checks recommended.

3.	Project Updates • Sheet piling: Current progress is at 15%, below target (25–30%). • Aim to complete the cofferdam and spillway demolition by year-end subject to progress of the works, commissioning of the cofferdam, and suitable weather and catchment conditions for the demolition. • Cofferdam construction underway; sheet piles installed at varying depths based on geotechnical data. • Wet season risk acknowledged, contingency measures in place. • Lake lowering completed via siphon to 42% (possible drop to 39%) to improve safety and reduce fish passage risk during rain events. • Shallow tributaries create appearance of empty lake; no long-term bed damage expected. • Spillway demolition identified as critical phase requiring 8-day clear weather window, timing dependent on cofferdam construction completion, commissioning, and weather forecasts. • It was acknowledged by the CRG that the spillway demolition will impact neighbouring residents, particularly while demolition is proceeding 24 hours a day. Seqwater and John Holland representatives will liaise with neighbouring residents as to how best to minimise this impact, including providing as much notice as possible in advance before demolition will occur.
4.	Environmental and Fish Salvage • Fish salvage paused due to low catch rates, biosecurity risks, and low relocation suitability (for main species found which was bony bream). • Biomass survey indicates better ecosystem balance if fish remain in place. • Approximately 16,000 fish originally, now around 10,000 due to natural reduction. • Fish exclusion device (9mm aperture) installed at siphon. • Monitoring of fish health and water quality ongoing, salvage to recommence if necessary. • Timber clearing (1 hectare) completed; root balls to be placed in lake for habitat, mulch tested for contaminants before donation.
5.	Culture Heritage • Cultural heritage awareness training conducted with staff; agreements in place with Kabi Kabi for ground disturbing activities.
6.	Traffic Management • Lake Macdonald Drive & Elm Street intersection upgrade in planning and staged works to minimise disruption. • Works anticipated to start in September 2025 - completion aligned with 2026 school year. • Fully funded by Seqwater and includes adjustments to power poles.
7.	Recreation • Safety bunting installed along boat ramp to prevent vehicle access to boggy shoreline. • Rowing club relocation to Hoy Road, near Darter Park progressing; conditions under negotiation with Council to increase capped usage numbers.

8.	Communications and Stakeholder Engagement - August newsletter distributed; community event planned before end of year. - Emergency action plan promoted at Disaster Resilience event. - Resident meetings held to discuss project impacts and mitigation measures and generally positive feedback on responsiveness. - Discussion started from the presentation on the Seqwater Community Benefits Framework that is being drafted. With a call to action to think about possible initiatives in the community that could be supported by the project or Seqwater.
9.	General Business and Close - The project has generated a large amount of mulch and availability for community to get access to this mulch is to be confirmed, likely via Council. - Boundary agreement and water allocation license under review. - Legacy project ideas sought – suggestions to Seqwater ahead of next meeting. Next Meeting: Wednesday, 19 November 2025 Contact: Alana to be notified of any agenda items or if members cannot attend. - Jess closed the meeting and thanked attendees for their continued involvement.

Action items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Follow up on mulch availability and Mulch distribution point confirmation	Cameron/Daniela
2.	Confirm Wildlife Society meeting location	Kristy/Sharon
3.	Confirm status of removed TMR report to enable closure at next CRG.	Kristy
4.	Review water allocation licence holder queries	Kristy/Sharon
5.	Provide update on Elm Street/TMR design	Richard
6.	Demolition timing cannot be flexible, however is highly sensitive to weather conditions being suitable to proceed. Seqwater will identify, communicate and provide appropriate resident support.	Kristy/Richard

Forward Agenda items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Gympie Weir upgrade update – moved to first meeting in 2026	Seqwater
2.	Wet season readiness and contingency planning	Seqwater
3.	Demolition timeline and resident impact measures	Seqwater/John Holland
4.	Mulch collection process update	John Holland

5.	Legacy project proposals and decisions – CRG members to gather suggestions for possible community legacy initiatives.	Seqwater/John Holland / all members
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The meeting closed at 5:30pm.