

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

Lake Kurwongbah

e-update



31 October 18

Latest news

The upgrade project at Sideling Creek Dam is making good progress.

Recent wet weather has topped up many of South East Queensland's dams with levels across all our storages at 78.5%. At Sideling Creek Dam (Lake Kurwongbah) this has resulted in water flowing over the spillway into Sideling Creek, as it is designed to do.

Over five consecutive days in October, the rain gauge at the construction site recorded 116mm of rainfall. The increased outflows have temporarily stopped all work below the spillway. Fortunately, rainfall was factored into the construction plan and while the spillway dries out we are focussing our attention on the main dam embankment works.

Construction progress

Main embankment

Over the last few months, large machinery (excavators, drill-rig's, and moxies) have been excavating the area downstream of the wall to remove loose soil and weathered rock. This excavation work will continue until we reach hard rock. To date, around 25,500 tonnes of earth have been excavated (that's enough to fill 10 Olympic sized swimming pools and there's still more to go!)

Clay is also being imported to site for use in the construction of the downstream cofferdam. The cofferdam will be made from tightly compacted layers of clay and covered with rock fill to protect the main embankment from erosion.



Image: Main embankment safety upgrade work

Spillway

Major upgrade work to the spillway started last month with the spillway plunge pool significantly re-contoured using a drilling rig to achieve the design profile and an excavator for bulk rock removal. We have now begun concreting work on both sides of the spillway to strengthen the walls. Over the coming months and into next year, 8.5-metre-long steel rods will be installed. These rods will securely anchor the concrete apron to the rock foundation below the spillway.

Work hours

Weather permitting, construction work hours will be from 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and from 7.30am to 2pm on Saturdays.



Construction zone

Image: Placement of steel rods (dowels)

Image: A Moxie moving clay

Residents and visitors to the area should note the entire construction area, including the dam wall, is now part of the Principal Contractor, Fulton Hogan's site and for safety reasons entry is permitted to construction personnel only.

We take every precaution to keep our work areas safe.

Please follow the instructions of signage and do not pass any barricades.

Did you know?

- The earth embankment at Sideling Creek Dam stretches for half a kilometre!
- The catchment area covers 53km²
- Sideling Creek Dam holds 8,590 megalitres when it's at Full Supply Level.

Background – Dam Improvement Program

Sideling Creek Dam was constructed in 1957 and upgraded in 1969. In 2012-13, as part of our ongoing monitoring, Seqwater commissioned an independent assessment of Sideling Creek Dam and our other regulated dams. Sideling Creek Dam is one of a number of dams across South East Queensland identified in the assessment for upgrade. In Queensland, dam owners are responsible for the safety of their dams under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008. Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program is about upgrading dams in line with the latest engineering standards and to meet the current Queensland Dam Safety Guidelines.

Sign up for free dam release alerts

Sideling Creek Dam is an ungated dam. An un-gated dam is built in a way that means Seqwater has no control over water spilling from the dam once the dam water level surpasses the Full Supply Level. When rainfall in the catchment results in inflows to an un-gated dam that increase the water level beyond the dam's Full Supply Level, water begins to flow over the dam spillway. The dam spillway is lower than the dam embankment so that water can flow over the spillway and safely out of the dam into the creek or river system the dam is built on.

All un-gated dams help mitigate flooding to some extent. The peak outflow from an un-gated dam during a flood event is less than the peak outflow that would have occurred had the dam not been built, because some water is held in the dam while it is spilling.

Sign up to our dam release notification service (<http://www.seqwater.com.au/dam-release-information-service>) to be notified when Sideling Creek Dam is spilling and/or nearby North Pine Dam is releasing water. This free service provides subscribers with notifications by email (<https://www1.ewn.com.au/seqwater/register-mobile.aspx>), SMS (<https://www1.ewn.com.au/seqwater/register-mobile.aspx>)

or recorded messages to telephone landlines when gated dams are releasing water or un-gated dams are spilling. Register now (<http://www.seqwater.com.au/dam-release-information-service>) to get dam alerts or download the Seqwater app from the App Store (<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/seqwater/id1173354226?mt=8>) or Google Play (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.au.ewn.seqwater&hl=en>) on your device.

For more information

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