

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

e-update



May 2018

Latest news

Since our last update, the project team has been completing preliminary designs for the Lake Macdonald Dam (Six Mile Creek Dam) safety upgrade and started the process for environmental and regulatory approvals.

In December 2017, the dam upgrade was declared a 'coordinated project' under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*. We are developing an Impact Assessment Report to investigate the potential impacts of the project including noise, traffic, recreation and the environmental values of Six Mile Creek.

The team has started designing the upgrade to get it ready for construction next year. This will include finalising the size and shape of the dam upgrade, working out what materials and equipment we will need and in what order we will do the work. [Click here](#) to find out more about what planning a dam upgrade involves.

We have also been in discussions with stakeholders including Scouts Queensland (the operators of Camp Cooroora), the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (operators of the Mary River cod hatchery), and the Lake Macdonald Rowing Club about temporarily relocating operations at Lake Macdonald before construction begins in 2019.

Impact Assessment Report (IAR)

An IAR is mostly focused on potential impacts, the locations that may be impacted and proposed mitigation measures for reducing those impacts. Areas of impact to be assessed may include, but are not limited to, traffic, noise, dust, water quality, recreation, cultural heritage, and ecology.

Approval from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy will also be required due to potential impacts on matters of national environmental significance such as the Mary River cod, Australian lungfish, Mary River turtle, White-throated snapping turtle and giant barred frog.

Once the IAR has been drafted, it will be made available for the public and government agencies to comment.

For more information, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/sixmilecreek

2012-14	DAM SAFETY REVIEW	✓
2014-15	OPTION ANALYSIS & CONCEPT DESIGN	✓
2016	PRELIMINARY DESIGN & APPROVALS	✓
2017-18	DETAILED DESIGN & APPROVALS	←
2018-19	PROJECT PLANNING	🔍
2019-21	CONSTRUCTION	🔍



Photo credit: Marc Raffaele Photography



Early enabling works

The water level in Lake Macdonald will need to be temporarily lowered a few months before work can begin for the safety of those working on the dam and living downstream. We will provide more information about the lowering and its impacts in the coming months.

Once the water level has been lowered, a temporary coffer dam will be built (to hold the remaining water back during construction) and preparations made for a concrete batching plant (to provide concrete for building the new spillway) before the upgrade works can start.

Coffer dams are a common engineering technique for temporarily holding back water to safely conduct investigations or maintenance downstream. (Photo credit: WaterNSW).

About the upgrade

Lake Macdonald is one of a number of dams in South East Queensland to be upgraded as part of Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program over the next five years. This will be the first major upgrade of the dam since the wall was raised in 1980.

The project will involve:

- constructing concrete foundations for the new spillway
- building a new 'labyrinth' spillway
- reconstructing the existing earth embankments (dam walls).

Labyrinth spillways are made out of concrete and look a bit like a sawtooth blade. Due to area constraints at the existing dam site, the unique spillway design was chosen to efficiently control water flowing out of the dam.

More than 100 options were assessed and upgrading the existing dam is the most cost-effective solution to improving dam safety, while also maintaining water supply and flood mitigation benefits, and keeping the lake open to recreation in the future.



Example concept design of a labyrinth spillway.

Get involved

We recognise there are many people in Lake Macdonald, Cooroy and surrounding areas who will be interested in this project and its potential impacts.

Members of the project team will be at the [Noosa Festival of Water](#) on Sunday 24 June 2018 from 10am to 3pm to answer your questions about the upgrade.

Later this year, we are planning to talk to local communities including residents, businesses and recreational users to better understand the potential project impacts and get feedback. The information we collect will be used to assess the project, identify ways to reduce impacts and better plan the project for construction.

Keep an eye on the [Seqwater website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or your local newspaper in the coming months to find out how you can provide feedback on the project and its impacts.



Sign up for free dam release alerts

Sign up to be notified when Lake Macdonald is spilling through Seqwater's dam release notification service. You can receive notifications by email, text message or recorded message to your mobile or landline.

[Register now](#) to get dam alerts or download our new app from the App Store or Google Play on your device.

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