

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

e-update



July 2018

Have your say!

Seqwater is seeking feedback on the potential and perceived impacts of the Lake Macdonald Dam Safety Upgrade between August and September 2018. There are several ways you can have your say both online and face to face.

We want to understand what the localised impacts will be for you during construction and ways we can avoid or reduce these. We are seeking public feedback in areas such as traffic, noise, recreation, and environment.

[Register your interest](#) now to get ready to have your say from **Wednesday 1 August**.

Your feedback will be used to finalise the draft [Impact Assessment Report](#) before it is submitted for approvals. For more information, visit www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/sixmilecreek

Noosa Festival of Water 2018

Thank you to everyone who visited our project information stand at the Noosa Festival of Water on Sunday 24 June.

We got a lot of great questions. The most frequently asked were –

- Why does the dam need to be upgraded?
- How long will construction take?
- What will the water level be during construction?
- How will construction traffic access the area?

You can find the answers to these questions and more at yourseqwater.com.au



Latest planning news

We are finalising the baseline studies for each of the potential impacts including traffic, noise, dust, cultural heritage and ecology. These studies tell us what, for example, the current noise levels and traffic numbers are in the local area. This information will form part of the [Impact Assessment Report](#) to assist with project approvals.

We are still investigating options to temporarily lower the water level of the dam during the construction period. We recognise the impact this will have on neighbours and the natural environment, in and around the lake, so there's a significant amount of planning we need to do in consultation with various stakeholders.

Why does the water level have to be lowered?

The water level in Lake Macdonald will need to be [temporarily lowered somewhere between five and six metres](#) (or around 5-10 per cent of the dam's full supply level) a few months before work can begin for the safety of those working on the dam and living downstream.

Once lowered, a coffer dam will be constructed to hold the remaining water back and keep workers safe while they're building the new spillway and rebuilding the embankments. Once the upgrade is complete, the dam will be allowed to naturally refill to its original full supply level.

Lowering water levels is an industry accepted practice to maintain dam safety. Management plans will be developed before the water level is lowered, outlining the measures required to minimise the impact on the surrounding catchment, aquatic life and residents living downstream. This plan will need to be adaptive to changing conditions throughout construction.

Temporarily lowering the water storage capacity during construction will not affect the long-term security of water supply in the region.

About the upgrade

Lake Macdonald is one of several 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 from concrete and look a bit like a sawtooth blade. 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.

Get in contact

We have set up a new project email to better respond to your project enquiries. Feel free to drop us an email any time at lakemacdonald@seqwater.com.au and a member of the project team will get back to you. This will be one of the dedicated contact points during construction, along with the existing project hotline **1800 902 294**.

For more information

[w yourseqwater.com.au/lake-macdonald-dam-upgrade](http://yourseqwater.com.au/lake-macdonald-dam-upgrade)

[e lakemacdonald@seqwater.com.au](mailto:lakemacdonald@seqwater.com.au)

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