

Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project – CRG – Meeting 8

Date and time	19 Aug 2026 3:30pm-5:30pm
Location	Cooroy RSL – 25 Maple Street, Cooroy
Attendees	Seqwater: 3 members John Holland: 2 members CRG – Paul O'Hare, Phillip Moran, Brad Wedlock, Mal Gray (filling in for Trish Gray), Nick Cooke ODAPTIC – Jessica Niebling, Ananya George
Apologies	Russel Manning, Trish Gray, Susan Markey, Dijah Zahzouh
Purpose	Meeting 8 of the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project Community Reference Group.

Meeting Minutes

Item	Description
1.	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u> • ODAPTIC opened the meeting and welcomed attendees • It was noted that Mal Gray attended the meeting as a proxy for Trish Gray. • Acknowledgement of Country was delivered • Agenda was confirmed
2.	<u>Outstanding Actions from Meeting 7</u> • Footpath Near Dam Wall - Seqwater was asked to investigate whether a footpath could be installed on the verge near the dam wall, in consultation with Council. The item is not part of the project scope and has been logged as a legacy item. Status: Suggestion remained as a legacy consideration. Action Item closed. • Gympie Weir Update - Seqwater was asked to provide a further update regarding Gympie Weir and associated environmental discussions. This was discussed in the previous meeting. Status: Closed. • Water Treatment plant tour – The Water Treatment Plant tour has been scheduled for November, alongside a second Site Tour. Status: Closed. • Monitoring devices on Boral Concrete Agitator – This has been confirmed. Status: Closed • Rowing club – This item was addressed in this meeting. Status: Closed. • Rehabilitation planning – Suggestion retained as a legacy consideration. Status – Closed.

	• Future signage – The potential installation of park signage was revisited. A suggestion was made that the area currently maintained by Council is utilized for this suggestion, supposing that it is expected to continue to be maintained in future. Suggestion remained as a legacy consideration. Status – Closed. • Landcare plantings – Item was discussed during the meeting. Status – Closed. • Construction Staging and Look Ahead - John Holland was asked to provide continued construction staging updates and a detailed six-month look ahead following demolition activities. Update: John Holland provided an updated construction staging overview and six-month look ahead during the Project Update section. Status: Closed
3.	<u>Project Update</u> • The project team provided an update on the working platform and low-flow channel. Permanent works have commenced, with progress continuing toward the cut-off wall and plastic concrete wall installation. • Elm Street intersection works are nearing completion, with minor finishing works remaining. • During significant rainfall events, the project team confirmed monitoring and management controls are in place. The site would be demobilized in an overtopping event, and machinery can be removed from the working platform quickly if required. • Fish spawning risks were discussed. An action was identified to investigate more gradual flow management. • Secant piling activities and associated noise were discussed. Noise barriers have been installed, operators briefed on mitigation measures, and works are expected to continue through to Christmas. • Secant piling noise is primarily generated by rig operations during pile installation and material removal. Noise barriers have been installed, and geotechnical conditions were briefly discussed. • Operators have been briefed to minimise noise where possible. Secant piling works are expected to continue until around Christmas. • Geotechnical conditions encountered on site were briefly discussed. Look ahead: • Secant piling is expected to be completed by December 2026, with mass concrete works commencing next year. • Excavation associated with removing the left embankment is expected to begin soon. Further community communications will be issued, including information on noise management.
4.	<u>Environment Update</u> • Additional parking and a temporary laydown area will be established at the Wimmers Factory to support increased workforce numbers. Minor works are expected to commence within three weeks, with workers transported to site by shuttle bus. • Platypus monitoring is ongoing, with camera traps and e-DNA sampling indicating a slight increase in activity consistent with baseline surveys. Seven platypuses have been identified to date, and ecologists are continuing to collect and assess monitoring data.
5.	<u>Project Legacy</u> • Seqwater presented the project legacy framework, highlighting the importance of listening to community feedback to improve long-term outcomes.

	- As the project progresses, the framework provides a pathway way to consider community priorities beyond the immediate construction scope and deliver lasting social, cultural, environmental initiatives. - CRG members were acknowledged as important community representatives whose practical feedback can help shape and prioritise legacy opportunities. - Members were invited to submit ideas, with feasibility, community benefit and affordability identified as key considerations. Feedback will be captured through surveys and ongoing engagement activities. - There was broad agreement that any legacy initiative should align with a broader community vision for the area. Engagement with the Friends of the Noosa Botanic Gardens was suggested to ensure complementary outcomes. - CRG members expressed preference for a place-based approach that enhances existing community values and reinstates previous dam uses, rather than introducing infrastructure that caters to new or specific user groups.
6.	<u>Communication Update</u> - A community newsletter was distributed in June 2026. - Engagement with Noosa Shire Council remains ongoing. - John Holland delivered site tours for Year 10 and vocational education students in late July 2026. - Seqwater and John Holland continue to provide project updates, notifications and community presentations. - Seqwater is working with Council on the temporary relocation of the Rowing Club to Lake Macdonald Park near the boat ramp. - A member raised concerns about potential impacts to park amenity and regular users if a permanent structure is installed. The former Rowing Club site was suggested as a the location where the rowing club could return to once the project is complete, with further discussions to occur between Seqwater and Council. - Seqwater provide Noosa Local Disaster Management Group with ongoing project updates. Members highlighted the importance of maintaining broad community access and preserving park amenity. Feedback on future park use will be captured through the legacy survey and ongoing engagement. Preferences raised included no jet skis and no swimming.
	<u>Future Meetings and Site Visits</u> 18 November 2026. More information will be sent out about the site visit.

Action items

Item	Action	Assigned to
1.	Investigate the ability to control flows when making dam releases through the siphons more gradually	Seqwater
2.	Confirm the name of Cooroy and Frogmouth Creek	Seqwater
3.	The next meeting site and water treatment plan tours will be used to address questions including recreation, environmental treatment measures currently being implemented and resource protection considerations.	Seqwater/Odaptic/John Holland

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.