



Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project

Annual Compliance
Report Six-Mile Creek
Dam Safety Upgrade
(EPBC 2017_8078) 2025 -
2026

Document Number: LMDIP-05242-DLM-ENV-REP-00003 - LMDIP Annual Compliance Report Six Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade Queensland (EPBC 2017_8078)

Reporting period: 1 March 2025 – 29 May 2026

Revision 01| August 2026

Distribution list

Name	Position
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As determined by the Project Manager	Project Control Group
As required	Project Personnel

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Draft issues of this document are identified as Revision A, B, C etc. Upon initial issue (generally Contract Award) this will be changed to a sequential number commencing at Revision 0. Revision numbers will continue at Rev. 1, 2 etc.

Reviewer					
Rev	Date	Prepared By	Reviewed By	Approved By	Remarks
1	11/08/2026	S. Orchard	N. Carruthers	L. Anderson	

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Project context

Lake Macdonald (Six Mile Creek) Dam is located on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. It is one of two principal raw water sources that supply potable drinking water to the residents of Noosa Shire. The dam requires an upgrade to meet modern safety standards and the performance requirements of the Queensland dam safety regulations into the future.

The improvement of Lake Macdonald Dam will allow the dam to better manage severe weather and earthquake events; it includes improving the spillway discharge capacity and earthquake stability while maintaining water supply security. The Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project (LMDIP) will not change the scale of the existing water impoundment, with the dam's full supply level and inundation area remaining the same post-upgrade and the proposed dam infrastructure largely occupying the existing footprint.

LMDIP comprises the removal of the existing spillway and embankments and the construction of a new spillway and embankments on weathered rock. This will require the lowering of water stored in Lake Macdonald to facilitate construction of a temporary cofferdam, demolition of the existing dam and construction of a replacement dam. The water level will be lowered to RL 93.0 m AHD for the duration of construction which will be approximately 4 years (subject to inflows and weather). Lake Macdonald will continue to be relied upon for water supply during the construction period and further operationally related drawdowns will occur. Project duration is 5 years.

The project triggered an EPBC referral due to the presence of MNES species upstream and downstream of the project site. Two aquatic fauna species listed as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) have been identified in Lake Macdonald and Six Mile Creek: the Mary River cod (*Maccullochella mariensis*) and the giant barred frog (*Mixophyes iterates*). Additionally, three other MNES species may inhabit the area: the Australian lungfish (*Neoceratodus forsteri*), the Mary River turtle (*Elusor macrurus*), and the white-throated snapping turtle (*Eseya albagula*). These species are also recognised as Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES), with two additional MSES species known to exist in Lake Macdonald: the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) and the tusked frog (*Adelotus brevis*). EPBC Approval (EPBC 2017/8078) was granted to the project in November 2019.

1.2. Project Status

The Project has completed stage 1 comprising construction of the coffer dam and demolition of the existing spillway and right-hand embankment. Works are currently moving into the foundation construction phase which includes geotechnical investigations, working platform construction and general earth works.

1.3. Project location

Lake Macdonald is located on Six Mile Creek, approximately 10 km from the centre of Cooroy in the Noosa hinterland on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. The dam was originally constructed in the early 1960s and subsequently raised in 1979. When full it holds 8,018 ML of water, with a surface area of 260 ha and a total catchment area of 49 km². Lake Macdonald and its location are shown in Figure 1, overleaf.

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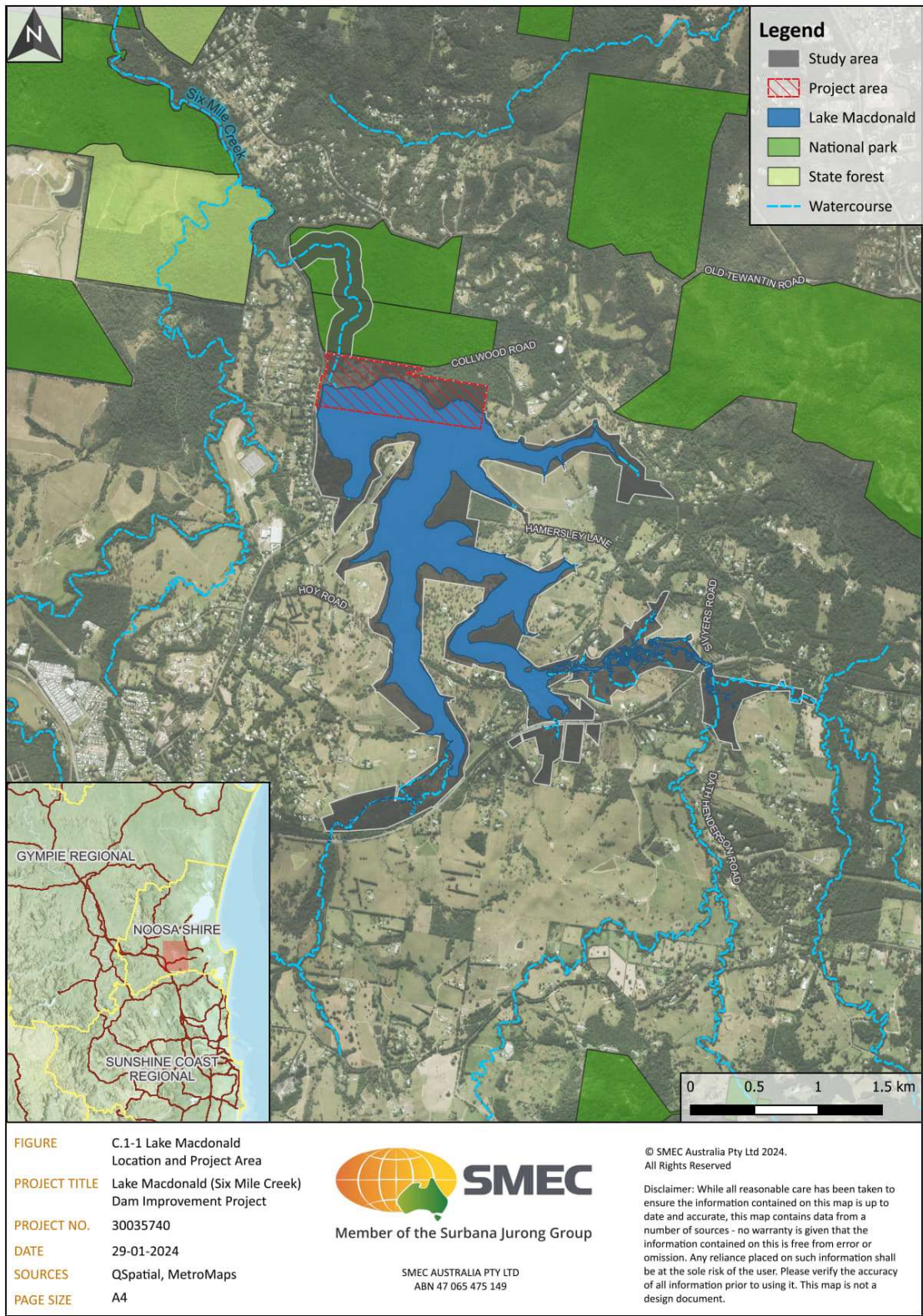


Figure 1: Lake Macdonald Project Location

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1.4. Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to fulfil requirements of Condition 20 of the Conditions of Approval (EPBC 2017_8078) under the *Environment Protected and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth, EPBC Act) which requires the development of an annual Compliance Report (the Report). The report outlines compliance with the EPBC approval conditions and any details any non-conformances and how these may be addressed/rectified.

1.5. Proponent details

Queensland Bulk Water Authority (Seqwater) is Southeast Queensland's government-owned statutory authority for bulk water supply. Seqwater store, treat and deliver bulk water via SEQ water grid to water service providers Urban Utilities, Unity water, Logan Water, Redland City Council, Gold Coast City Council, who then supply to homes and businesses across Southeast Queensland.

Seqwater is one of the largest and most geographically spread water business in Australia, providing water from Gympie down to the Gold Coast, Brisbane across to Redlands and west to the Lockyer Valley.

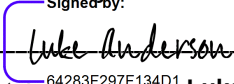
John Holland is the principal contractor delivering the Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project works on behalf of Seqwater to whom the approval was issued.

1.6. Contact information

Name: Luke Anderson – SEQ Project Director
Email: Luke.Anderson@seqwater.com.au
Mobile: 0400298453

1.7. Declaration of Accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed  _____
Full name (please print) ^{64283F297F134D1} **Luke Anderson** _____
Position (please print) **Project Director** _____
Organisation (please print including ABN/ACN if applicable) **Seqwater** _____
Date **18 / 08 / 2026**

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2. APPROVAL HISTORY

EPBC approval and approval documentation dates are summarised in Table 1. The Variation of conditions related to refinement of the definitions relating to what constitutes an independent expert and clarifying that the Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person.

Table 1: Relevant Dates for EPBC Act Approval

Approval Document	Title	Date of Decision	Expiry Date
EPBC2017/8078	Approval	7 November 2019	30 June 2035
EPBC 2017/8078	Variation of Conditions of Attached Approval	10 August 2020	30 June 2035

Table 2: Chronology of Annual Compliance Reports

Reporting Dates	Report No.	Status
26 May 2025 – 26 May 2026	LMDIP-0542-DLM-ENV-REP-00003	This report

3. COMPLIANCE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Conditions of Approval

Condition 20 of the Conditions of Approval attached to the approval under the EPBC Act requires the development of an annual Compliance Report, specifically;

Annual compliance reporting

20. *The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister.*

- The approval holder must:
 - publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period.
 - Notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within five business days of the date of publication;

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- Keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires;
- Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website;
- where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to The Department within five (5) business days of publication.

The content of the Report is further defined in the Conditions of Approval as follows:

Compliance reports means written reports:

- i. providing accurate and complete details of compliance, incidents, and non-compliance with these approval conditions and commitments in the plans;
- ii. details of contingency measures or corrective actions that have been or will be implemented;
- iii. consistent with the Department's Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014);
- iv. include a shapefile of any clearance of any protected matter(s), or their habitat, undertaken within the relevant 12-month period; and annexing a schedule of all plans prepared and in existence in relation to the conditions during the relevant 12-month period.

Note: Compliance reports may be published on the Department's website.

3.2. Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (2014)

The Commonwealth Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEW) maintain the Annual Compliance Report Guidelines (the Guideline), which aims to provide a guide for approval holders to follow when preparing annual compliance reports as a required condition of their EPBC Act approval.

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements as set out in the Guidelines and described in Table 1

Figure 2: EPBC Approval compliance

Guideline Requirement	Reference
EPBC number	(EPBC 2017 /8078)
Project name	Six-Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade, Queensland
Approval holder and ACN or ABN	ABN 75 450 239 876
Description of the approved action	To upgrade the Six-Mile Creek Dam, Queensland.
Location of the project	Lake Macdonald, Cooroy, Queensland.
Person accepting responsibility for the report – signed declaration	Luke Anderson
Dates of the preparation of the report	26 May 2026
The compliance report should demonstrate that all conditions of the EPBC approval have been considered and addressed, and list the conditions of the EPBC approval,	See Table 1

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including any variations to those conditions, noting if compliance or non-compliance with each condition has been achieved.	
If a management plan is required under an approval condition, the specifics in a management plan that support an approval condition should be detailed in the compliance report and material should be provided demonstrating that the requirements of that plan have been implemented	Adaptive Management Plan Rev 16 – attached as Appendix A
The following designations have been used to record findings in this Report:	Compliant: ‘Compliance’ is achieved when all the requirements of a condition have been met, including the implementation of management plans/ and or other measures required by those conditions.
The following designations have been used to record findings in this Report: implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.	Non-compliant: A designation of ‘non-compliance’ is given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition, including the implementation of management plans and other measures, have not been met.
The following designations have been used to record findings in this Report:	Not applicable: A designation of ‘not applicable’ is given where the requirements of a condition or elements of a condition fall outside of the scope of the current reporting period. For example, a condition which applies to an activity that has not yet commenced.

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4. PROJECT COMPLIANCE

Table 3: Compliance Status

Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
Part A- Conditions specific to the action				
1.	The approval holder must:			
	a) Not undertake construction outside the project area	Complete	Compliant	Construction works have been confined to the approved project area
	b) Not undertake clearing outside the clearing extent	Complete	Compliant	Clearing was confined to the approved project boundary only and no clearing occurred outside the boundary. Refer to Appendix B and Appendix F.
	c) Not undertake the lake drawdown between 1 September and 28 February	Complete	Compliant	Lake lowering occurred 26 May – 19 th June 2025
	d) Not undertake the lake drawdown in a manner that exceeds bankfull height.	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 2.3 Drawdown rate (The practical limitation on release rate of the siphon system is around 5 m ³ /s. Hydraulic modelling indicates that the bankfull rate of Six-Mile Creek is 10 m ³ /s. As per Condition 1-d) of the EPBC Approval the lake drawdown was undertaken in a manner that did not exceed the bankfull height).
2.	Prior to the commencement of the action, and to inform the Adaptive Management Plan required under condition three (3), the approval holder must:			

Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
	a) Identify and map habitat of protected matter(s) within Lake Macdonald and downstream in Six Mile Creek	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in Appendix G of the AMP.
	b) Develop trigger levels and specify limits at which to initiate adaptive management of the lake drawdown and construction activities, for water quality parameters including (but not limited to) temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus.	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in Table 3-2 of the AMP. These trigger levels have been reviewed and adjusted when the RAMP was submitted in August 2025. Refer to Appendix E – AMP Approval
Adaptive Management Plan				
3.	For the protection of protected matter(s) within Lake Macdonald and downstream in Six Mile Creek, the approval holder must submit an Adaptive Management Plan, prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person, for the Minister's approval. The approval holder must not commence the action until the Adaptive Management Plan has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Adaptive Management Plan must be implemented for the duration of the action.	Complete	Compliant	Seqwater submitted the AMP for approval to the department and written approval was given by the Minister on 8 May 2025. The AMP has been implemented onsite since notifying the department of commencing the controlled action.

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
4.	The Adaptive Management Plan must be reviewed by an independent expert in relation to each of the protected matter(s). The review must be provided to the Department at the time the Adaptive Management Plan is submitted for the Minister's approval.	Complete	Compliant	The AMP has been reviewed by independent experts for each of the protected matters (i.e. Mary River cod, Australian lungfish, giant barred frog, Mary River turtle, and white-throated snapping turtle) prior to its submission and approval by DCCEW. Independent expert review was provided for the initial AMP approved in 2020 and again for the Rev 14 revision in November 2024. Refer to Appendix D for independent SQP review and Appendix E for AMP approval.
5.	The Adaptive Management Plan must be consistent with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines {2014}, and must include:	Complete	Compliant	Referenced on page 8 of the AMP, Refer to Appendix A.
	a) Details of how the construction and lake drawdown (during both the gradual 12-week lowering scenario and the rapid release scenario) will be managed to avoid, mitigate and manage:	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 2 'Lowering Lake Macdonald' of the AMP. It should be noted that the approved AMP details a 4-week drawdown period due to the reduced lake lowering to RL92.8m
	i) Negative impacts on the habitat of protected matter(s) identified and mapped as required under condition two (2)	Complete	Compliant	Refer to the following sections of the AMP: Section Error! Reference source not found. 3-Management and Monitoring for erosion & sediment control / Section 6.3-Management and Monitoring of aquatic habitat during the lowering.

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ii)	The exceedance of trigger levels to initiate adaptive management, and exceedance of specified limits to initiate a flow reduction or pause of the lake drawdown or construction until a solution is identified and implemented, for water quality parameters as required to be developed under condition two (2).	Complete	Compliant	Performance criteria for water quality have been set and if exceeded will trigger a review of releases and management measures. Adjustments to drawdown releases (reduce or cease) will be made if a potential impact associated with the release is detected. The requirement for, and the nature of, the adjustment will be dependent on the identified impact and affected parameter. Refer to sections Section Error! Reference source not found.Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found. of the AMP. Refer to Appendix C Water Quality Summary.
iii)	Injury and mortality of protected matter(s), including from (but not limited to) lake drawdown equipment and the temporary cofferdam.	Complete	Compliant	Performance criteria for aquatic flora and fauna have been set, including MNES species, along with aquatic habitat criteria. Where the flora and fauna, and habitat, triggers are exceeded, a review of releases and management measures will be implemented. Adjustments to drawdown releases (reduce or cease) will be made if a potential impact associated with the release is detected. The requirement for, and the nature of, the adjustment will be dependent on the nature of the impact. Refer to Table 5-3 of the AMP.
b)	Details of how proposed management measures take into account relevant	Complete	Compliant	This AMP was developed with regard to relevant conservation advice, key threats and management actions

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	approved conservation advices and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans.			for the MNES species that potentially occur in the project area. Error! Reference source not found. of the AMP demonstrates how management measures are consistent with the advice.
	c) Details of habitat remediation measures, including (but not limited to) the remediation and establishment of habitat for protected matter(s) within Lake Macdonald and downstream in Six Mile Creek.	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 9 of the AMP. Where impacts to habitat for MNES species are identified, aquatic habitat will be re-established or supplemented (e.g. through replacement of woody debris or snags, bank or bed stabilisation, replacement of bed materials). Seqwater is also investigating opportunities to improve aquatic habitat in Lake Macdonald for a variety of species (e.g. addition of root balls and other fish friendly structures, if needed).
	d) Measures to review and update the Adaptive Management Plan if protected matter(s), not previously identified, are found within Lake Macdonald or downstream in Six Mile Creek within 10 km of the project area.	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 1.7 of the AMP. If protected matters not previously identified are found within 10 km of the Project, the plan will be reviewed and updated. No additional Protected Matters have been identified.
	e) A monitoring program, which must include:			
	i) The timing, frequency and location of monitoring within Lake Macdonald and downstream in Six Mile Creek, during the lake drawdown and construction, to detect potential impacts on the habitat	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 3.3 and 6.3 of the AMP. Monitoring to assess potential impacts to MNES species habitat and water quality in relation to the specified performance criteria occurred before and during drawdown and during construction. The monitoring ranges from

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
	for protected matter(s) and the exceedance of trigger levels and specified limits for water quality.			continuous logging of water quality to depending on the parameter and the location. Three downstream sites, two control sites, and one Lake Macdonald sites are being monitored. Refer to Appendix C Water Quality Summary.
ii)	The timing, frequency and location of monitoring within Lake Macdonald and downstream in Six Mile Creek, post lake drawdown and construction, to detect potential impacts on protected matter(s).	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 3.3, 5.4 and section 5.5.11 of the AMP. Monitoring to assess potential impacts to MNES species' habitat and water quality in relation to the specified performance criteria occurred after drawdown and construction. The monitoring frequency ranges from continuous logging to quarterly depending on the monitoring outcomes. Three downstream sites, two control sites, and one Lake Macdonald site are being monitored Refer to Appendix C Water Quality Summary.
iii)	The details and timing of adaptive management measures and corrective actions, if negative impacts on habitat for protected matter(s) are detected, including (but not limited to) reducing or ceasing the lake drawdown and construction.	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in Table 5-3 and Table 6-1 and Appendix F of the AMP. Where the performance criteria defined for MNES species' habitat are not met, drawdown releases were planned to be reduced or paused (depending on the potential impact detected). Management measures were to be reviewed and revised if required. Where adjustments were not effective, alternative mitigation measures were to be reviewed (e.g. habitat improvements). No adjustments to releases and implementation of management measures were required due to there being no identified impacts to protected matters.

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	iv) The details and timing of adaptive management measures and corrective actions, if threshold trigger levels for water quality are exceeded, including (but not limited to) reducing or ceasing the lake drawdown and construction	Complete	Compliant	Detailed in section 3.3, table 3-2 and Appendix F of the AMP. Initially the performance criteria for water quality was frequently exceeded. Due to the narrow range of trigger thresholds, a review and update of the water quality trigger levels was conducted and updated with new trigger levels being implemented in Rev 15 of the AMP which was approved in August 2025.
6.	All monitoring and data analysis required under the Adaptive Management Plan must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s).	Complete	Compliant	The requirement for SQPs to undertake the required monitoring activities is referenced throughout the AMP. More specifically as defined in Section 3.1.4 and table 3-2 and table 5-3 of the AMP.
Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan				
7.	For the protection of protected matter(s) that are subject to salvage and relocation, the approval holder must submit an Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan, prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person, for the Minister's approval. The approval holder must not commence the action until the Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan has been approved by the Minister in writing. The approved Aquatic Fauna	Complete	Compliant	An Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan is incorporated into Section 5.5 of the AMP. The project did not commence until the AMP was approved by the Minister in writing on 8th May 2025.

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	Salvage and Relocation Management Plan must be implemented for the duration of the action.			
8.	The Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan must be reviewed by an independent expert in relation to each of the protected matter(s). The review must be provided to the Department at the time the Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan is submitted for the Minister's approval.	Complete	Compliant	This Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan has been reviewed by independent experts for each of the protected matters (i.e. Mary River cod, Australian lungfish, Giant barred frog, Mary River turtle, and White-throated snapping turtle). Refer to Appendix D of this document for the review evidence. Independent expert review was provided for the initial AMP approved in 2020 and again for the Rev 14 revision in November 2024
9.	The Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan must be consistent with the Department's <i>Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (2014)</i> , and must include:			
	a) Details of how proposed management measures take into account relevant approved conservation advices and are consistent with the measures contained in relevant recovery plans and threat abatement plans.	Complete	Compliant	The AFSRMP plan was developed with regard to relevant approved conservation advice for the MNES species that potentially occur in the project area. Error! Reference source not found. demonstrates how management measures are consistent with the advice.
	b) Details of risk assessments and risk management measures to be undertaken and implemented for protected matter(s) at each proposed relocation site prior to the commencement of the lake drawdown	Complete	Compliant	A risk workshop and risk assessment were completed for the lake lowering, and incorporated fauna salvage and relocation. A detailed assessment of relocation sites was undertaken to determine their suitability, and visual monitoring of these

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	(including but not limited to the risk of disease, translocation of aquatic weeds and pests, and risks to the health and safety of aquatic fauna during capture and transport).			sites will be undertaken. If new sites are required, this will be discussed with DPI prior to relocation of fauna. Fauna capture, handling and transport was completed in accordance with relevant State and Commonwealth guidelines and by a SQP. Refer to section 10, Table 5-3 and Appendix H of the AFSRMP.
	c) Detailed methodologies for the salvage and relocation operations, including (but not limited to) associated equipment for each species, which demonstrate the application of best practice and species-specific methods for the salvage and relocation of the protected matter(s).	Complete	Compliant	Section 5.5 of the AMP details the fish salvage methods and operations including transport and handling of protected matters. All handling of MNES fauna was in accordance with relevant Commonwealth and State guidelines and by a SQP.
	d) Details of surveys and monitoring, including:			
	i) To assess the suitability and carrying capacity of all proposed relocation sites prior to the lake drawdown.	Complete	Compliant	Surveys of relocation sites were undertaken in December 2019 and January 2020 to assess their suitability and carrying capacity. Sites were re-surveyed by the fish salvage SQP on the 7th June 2025 prior to the commencement of relocation to ensure continued viability. Refer to Section 5.5.6 of the AMP. Survey methods are provided in Error! Reference source not found. of the AMP.

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	ii) On a monthly basis at all relocation sites for 12 months after week four (4) of the lake drawdown schedule, to assess the long-term success of the salvage and relocation operation.	Complete	Compliant	Monthly inspections of relocation sites were undertaken for 12 months after the salvage & relocation. Evidence collected includes the Seqwater Ranger inspection checklists.
	iii) On a monthly basis at Lake Macdonald for 12 months commencing on the final date of the salvage and relocation of the protected matter(s) back into Lake Macdonald (Mary River Cod only), to assess the long-term success of the salvage and relocation operation.	Not required	Compliant	No protected matters were relocated back into the Lake. Only one protected matter species was caught during salvage operations (Mary River Cod) that was relocated permanently to Traveston Crossing Mary River.
10.	During salvage and relocation of protected matter(s), the approval holder must ensure that:			
	a) No protected matter(s) other than the Australian Lungfish, Mary River Cod, Mary River Turtle, and White-throated Snapping Turtle are relocated.	Complete	Compliant	No other protected matters other than 1 Mary River cod were relocated during the fish salvage process.
	b) The Department is notified within three (3) business days if any Mary River Turtle or White throated Snapping Turtle individuals are identified during salvage and relocation operations.	Complete	Not applicable	No capture or relocation of these species during the reporting period.

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	c) No Mary River Cod or Australian Lungfish are relocated to Tinana Creek or Obi Obi Creek.	Complete	Compliant	No Mary River cod or lungfish were relocated to these locations.
	d) The Mary River Cod is the only protected matter that may be temporarily relocated (until Lake Macdonald is deemed suitable for restocking by a suitably qualified and experienced person). All other protected matter(s) including (but not limited to) the Australian Lungfish, must be permanently relocated.	Complete	Compliant	One Mary River Cod was permanently relocated to Traveston crossing (Mary River) during fish salvage efforts during this reporting period.
	e) Temporary relocation of the Mary River Cod can only be to the Gerry Cook Fish Hatchery, or other location that is approved by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries prior to the commencement of the lake drawdown	Not applicable	Not applicable	Permanent relocation of the Mary River cod was as per Appendix H of the AMP. One Mary River cod was relocated to an approved relocation site at Traveston Crossing. No Mary River cod were temporarily relocated to Gerry Cook Fish Hatchery.
	f) No Australian Lungfish is relocated to farm dams.	Not applicable	Not applicable	No Australian Lungfish were relocated to any farm dams.
Residual Significant Impacts				
11.	Within six (6) months after the completion of all monitoring required under both conditions five (5) and nine (9), the approval			As per Condition 9d(iii) no MNES were salvaged and relocated back into the Lake, therefore no Significant Impact Assessment (SIA) is required.

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
	holder must undertake a Significant Impact Assessment (in accordance with the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1) to determine if there are any residual significant impacts to each protected matter(s) as a result of the lake drawdown, construction, and relocation operations. The assessment must be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced person(s) and reviewed by an independent expert. The assessment must have regard to approved conservation advices, recovery plans and threat abatement plans, and also include an assessment and evaluation of:	Condition not yet triggered	Not applicable	As for Condition 5, a SIA will be undertaken at the required timing to determine if there are any residual significant impacts.
	a) The effectiveness and success of the Adaptive Management Plan and of the lake drawdown and construction to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts to protected matter(s)	Condition not yet triggered	Not applicable	No impacts were observed during lake drawdown or construction to protected matters during this reporting period. The Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) was successfully implemented and followed by the project and SQP during salvage efforts and ongoing during construction. This will be formally reported on when undertaking the SIA.
	b) The effectiveness and success of the Aquatic Fauna Salvage and Relocation Management Plan, and salvage and	Condition not yet triggered	Not applicable	The salvage and relocation activities were successful with no protected matter deaths or impacts to report. The AMP was successfully implemented and followed during salvage and relocation efforts and was updated to reflect lower

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
	relocation activities to avoid, mitigate and manage impacts to protected matter(s) .			than expected catch rates and a cessation of fish salvage after a two-week period in consultation with Queensland Fisheries (Department of Primary Industries). This will be formally reported on when undertaking the SIA.
12.	The Significant Impact Assessment and independent review required under condition 11 must be made publicly available on the website within nine (9) months after the completion of monitoring required under both conditions five (5) and nine (9), and be provided to the Minister within five (5) business days of being published	Condition not yet triggered	Not applicable	As per Condition 9d(iii) no MNES were salvaged and relocated back into the Lake, therefore no Significant Impact Assessment (SIA) is required. As for Condition 5, a SIA will be undertaken at the required timing to determine if there are any residual significant impacts.
13.	If the Minister determines that there is a residual significant impact on any protected matter(s), the Minister may (in writing) require the approval holder to submit an Offset Plan in accordance 4 with EPBC Act Environmental Offsets Policy (October 2012) and the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines (2014), for the Minister's approval. The Minister may request that the plan be prepared or reviewed by a person designated or agreed to by the Minister within a specified timeframe. If the Minister approves the	Condition not yet triggered	Not applicable	Not yet applicable to this reporting period.

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	Offset Plan, the approved Offset Plan must be implemented.			
Part B – Standard administrative conditions				
14.	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action, within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Complete	Compliant	Notification of the commencement of the action (early works) was provided to DCCEEW on 13 th November 2024. A 2 nd notification of the commencement of the action was mistakenly provided on 30 th May 2025 as well.
15.	If the commencement of the action does not occur within five (5) years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister.	Complete	Compliant	Approval EPBC 2017/8078 is dated 7 th November 2019. Notification of the commencement of the action (early works) was provided 13 th November 2024.
Compliance records				
16.	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Ongoing	Compliant	Seqwater maintain accurate and complete compliance records. A Quarterly monitoring and compliance report is published on the Seqwater website every 3 months.
17.	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to	No requests received	Not applicable	No request received from the department to date.

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	the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.			
Preparation and publication of plans				
18.	The approval holder must:			
	a) Submit plans electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister;	Complete	Compliant	All required plans have been provided electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister to date by Seqwater.
	b) Publish each plan on the website within 10 business days of the date the plan is approved by the Minister or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister;	Complete	Compliant	Seqwater published the approved AMP on their website, on the 18th of May 2025, within the 10 business days post approval timeframe. The AMP along with all other approved plans can be found at https://www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project
	c) Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public; and	Complete	Not applicable	No information has been redacted.
	d) Keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Ongoing	Compliant	All published plans remain on Seqwater website for the duration of this approval. https://www.seqwater.com.au/project/lake-macdonald-dam-improvement-project

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
19.	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys, maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan conditioned by this approval, is prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines for biological survey and mapped data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan	Complete	Compliant	The clearing extent map provided in Appendix B of this report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines.
Annual Compliance reporting				
20.	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must:	Ongoing – this report	Non-Compliant	This report covers the 12-month period from 26 May 2025 – 26 May 2026, however notification of the commencement of early works was provided to DCCEEW on 13th November 2024. Notification of the commencement of the main works, deemed the Controlled Action, was provided on 30th May 2025. Normally this annual compliance report should have covered the period from November 2024 to November 2025 however the LMDIP project has used the May 2025 notification as the start of the 12-month period for compliance reporting along with the annual independent audit. This event has been reported as a non-compliance with Conditions 20 & 23.

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
	a) Publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12-month period;	To be complete once report complete	Not yet applicable	This compliance report will be published on Seqwater website within 60 business days following the 12-month compliance period on or before 18 th August 2026.
	b) Notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and provide the weblink for the compliance report within five business days of the date of publication;	To be complete once report complete	Not yet applicable	Seqwater will provide the Department notification of the report being published and a link the document by email on or before 25 th August 2026.
	c) Keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires;	Not yet published	Compliant	All published compliance reports will remain on Seqwater website until this approval expires in June 2035, unless the approval is relinquished earlier post completion.
	d) Exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website; and	Not yet published	Not applicable	No sensitive ecological data has been redacted from compliance reports published on Seqwater website.
	e) Where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within five (5) business days of publication.	Not yet published	Not applicable	No sensitive ecological data has been redacted from published compliance reports to date.
Reporting and non-compliance				

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Condition No.	Condition of Approval	Status	Compliance Status	Evidence/Justification
21.	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than two (2) business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance. The notification must specify:	Non-Conformance Reported	Compliant	Seqwater notified the Department via email on 3 rd July 2026 about a non-conformance in relation to Conditions 20 & 23 . Seqwater also notified the department non-compliance with Conditions 21 & 22 on 11 August 2026 which related to a failure to report on a water quality exceedance event that occurred in late January 2026.
	a) Any condition which is or may be in breach;	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Two non-compliances and zero incidents have been recorded/notified to the Department in this 12-month reporting period.
	b) A short description of the incident and/or non-compliance;	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Two non compliances/incidents have been recorded/notified to the Department in this 12-month reporting period.
	c) The location (including co-ordinates), date and time, to the extent that these can be determined, of the incident and/or non-compliance; and	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Seqwater reported to the Department via email on 3/07/26 and submitted an incident investigation report on 17/07/2026
	d) Details of any corrective measures undertaken.	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Corrective actions were included in the investigation report submitted 17/07/2026. This included: - Maintaining May 2025 as the anniversary date moving forward. Formal permission would be sought from NEPA when submitting the final Audit report.

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				-Ensuring all JHG & Seqwater internal action trackers are updated to with the correct reporting and audit anniversary dates.
22.	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or non-compliance with the conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 10 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:	Non-Conformance Reported	Non-Compliance Reported	An incident investigation report was provided to the National EPA on 17 July 2026 in relation to the non-compliance with Conditions 20 & 23. A non-compliance with Conditions 21 & 22 was also provided to the department on 11 August 2026 which related to a failure to report on a water quality exceedance event that occurred in late January 2026.
	a) Any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future;	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Details included in the incident investigation report
	b) The potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance; and	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Details included in the incident investigation report
	c) The method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.	Compliant	Non-Compliance Reported	Details included in the incident investigation report
Independent audit				

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23.	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted for each 12-month period following the date of commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister.	Audit Planned for July 2026	Non-Compliant	Independent Audit was completed in July 2026 and is based on the second notification of commencement of the action submitted in May 2025. However, notification of commencement of the action occurred twice with the original notification given to the department on 13 Nov 2024 and then again on 30 May 2025. The audit date was incorrectly scheduled to align with the second notification date.
24.	For each independent audit, the approval holder must:			
	a) Provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department;	Complete	Compliant	Auditor qualifications were provided to the Department via email on 27 th of March by Seqwater.
	b) Only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department; and	Complete	Compliant	2 nd draft Audit criteria has been submitted to DCCEEW on 19 th May 2026. Auditor was approved on 30/03/2026. Audit template was approved by the Department on 29 th May 2026.
	c) Submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.	Audit not yet commenced	Not applicable	Audit report will be submitted to the Department within the required timeframe. Audit not yet commenced.
25.	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the Department's approval	Audit not yet commenced	Not applicable	Audit report will be published on Seqwater website in the required timeframe defined in the approved audit criteria.

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	of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.			
Revision of action management plans				
26.	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan approved by the Minister under condition three (3) and condition seven (7), or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.	Ongoing	Compliant	Revision 14 of the AMP was approved by the Minister on 07/05/2025.
27.	The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan approved by the Minister under condition three (3) and condition seven (7), or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP	Ongoing	Compliant	A subsequent Revision 15 was provided to DCCEEW on 1st August 2025 and was approved by the department on the 14th of August 2025. Another updated RAMP has been submitted to DCCEEW on 8th May 2026 (Rev 16). Seqwater intend to move forward implementing the RAMP under Condition 27 without

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	would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.			seeking approval under section 143A of the EPBC Act not before 5th June 2026.
28.	If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 27 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:	Ongoing	Compliant	A subsequent Revision 15 was provided to DCCEEW on 1 st August 2025 and was approved by the department on the 14 th of August 2025, Refer to Appendix A for current AMP
	a) notify the Department in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the Department with:			A subsequent Revision 15 was provided to DCCEEW on 1st August 2025 and was approved by the department on the 14 th of August 2025
i.	an electronic copy of the RAMP;	Complete	Compliant	Provided
ii.	an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP;	Complete	Compliant	Provided
iii.	an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP	Complete	Compliant	Provided
iv.	the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not	Complete	Compliant	Provided

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	be likely to have a new or increased impact; and			
v.	The reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact; and	Complete	Compliant	Provided
	b) subject to condition 30, implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date	Complete	Compliant	Implementation date for Rev 15 of the AMP was 14 th of August 2025.
29.	The approval holder may revoke their choice to implement a RAMP under condition 27 at any time by giving written notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 27, the approval holder must implement the action management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 27.	Not required	Not applicable	Not required to be revoked
30.	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:	Not required	Not applicable	

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	a) condition 27 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP; and		Not applicable	No notice received from Minister in relation to increased impacts.
	b) the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the Minister in the notice.		Not applicable	No notice received from Minister in relation to increased impacts.
31.	At the time of giving the notice under condition 30, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 27 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans.		Not applicable	No notice received from Minister in relation to increased impacts.
Completion of the action				
32.	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	Not yet required works	Not applicable	Completion of the action not yet completed.

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5. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS AND NEW RISKS

5.1. Corrective Actions

The corrective actions relate to the two reported non-compliances with Conditions 20, 21, 22 & 23. The non-compliances were investigated and the following corrective actions were identified as required to prevent re-occurrences.

Conditions 20 & 23 – Administrative notification non-compliance

1. Maintaining May 2025 as the anniversary date for EPBC compliance and auditing moving forward. Formal permission would be sought from NEPA when submitting the final Independent Audit Report.
2. Ensuring all JHG & Seqwater internal action trackers are updated to with correct reporting and audit anniversary dates.

Conditions 21 & 22 – Failure to notify the department of a water quality exceedance event

3. Implement a regulatory notification checklist within the water quality review process to ensure all AMP reporting triggers are assessed and any required regulator notifications are completed within the required timeframe.

5.2. New Environmental Risks

This section of the Report identifies and discusses new environmental risks that have been identified during the reporting period.

A total of 4 new environmental risks were noted during the reporting period that have potential to affect protected matters (MNES species) and are detailed as follows:

Table 4: Environmental Risks

New Environmental Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Tailwater Pool Fish Aggregation and Salvage	The Project aquatic ecologist has undertaken fish salvage and relocation activities within the isolated tailwater pool on three separate occasions to reduce the risk of deteriorating water quality conditions impacting aquatic fauna. Fish captured during salvage activities were relocated downstream outside the isolated pool area. Species relocated included one juvenile Mary River cod and three Australian lungfish therefore a potential impact to MNES was confirmed, however, due to the timely response no MNES species were harmed. Monitoring identified that aquatic fauna were aggregating within the oxygenated tailwater pool during siphon operation and subsequently becoming isolated when siphon operation ceased. Water quality and aquatic fauna presence within the tailwater pool are monitored daily. The project recently constructed a rock causeway across the tailwater pool which has now limited access for fish to get stuck in the upper tailwater pool therefore this risk has now been significantly reduced.

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Low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Levels Downstream of the Project Site in Six Mile Creek	Monitoring identified periodic low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels downstream of the project area during warmer conditions and lower rainfall periods. A reduction in DO levels was also observed following lake lowering activities and periods when spillway and siphon operations were not occurring. Monitoring indicates these conditions are likely influenced by broader lake and creek hydrodynamics, including reduced flow conditions and the aggregation of aquatic fauna biomass. To manage this risk, the project maintains continuous downstream water quality monitoring and implements adaptive management measures where required. This includes periodic short-duration flushing with fresh lake water using the siphons when lower DO conditions are detected. The project also trialled a custom-built aeration system within the tailwater pool to improve localised dissolved oxygen conditions. It should be noted that a review of available baseline WQ data showed that median values for DO% in Six Mile Creek was lower than the regional water quality objectives (WQOs). Previous assessments also indicated that the tailwater typically fails to achieve WQOs for total suspended solids (TSS) and ammonia. DO levels below 30% saturation are considered toxic to some fish species therefore ongoing sustained low DO% levels could potentially impact MNES species.
Elevated nutrient levels in the upper reaches of Lake Macdonald	Elevated nutrient levels were recorded at upstream monitoring locations and inflow areas into Lake Macdonald in the months after drawdown. The increase in nutrients is considered likely associated with a combination of reduced dilution capacity within the lowered lake, exposure and oxidation of previously inundated organic-rich sediments, and mobilisation of nutrients from disturbed or previously stratified/anoxic sediments. These processes are commonly associated with significant reservoir drawdown events and are thought to have contributed to temporary increases in nitrate, ammonia and phosphorus concentrations. In response, the project increased water quality monitoring frequency and undertook additional observations across the lake throughout the period of elevated nutrient levels. Monitoring results indicated conditions stabilised following higher rainfall and flushing flows in December 2025. Ongoing weekly, fortnightly and monthly water quality monitoring continues across the lake and downstream monitoring locations. Excessive nutrients can stimulate algae growth which can lead to rapid DO% reductions. Cyanobacteria produce naturally occurring toxins which can also affect fish health and therefore a potential risk to MNES species residing in the lake.
Potential blackwater event during lake refilling	A potential future "blackwater event" risk has been identified associated with vegetation growth that will accumulate on exposed lake banks while the lake remains lowered (4-5 years). Following lake refilling, inundation and decomposition of accumulated vegetation has the potential to increase biological oxygen demand (BOD) significantly reducing DO levels within the

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	Lake. Due to the potential risk to MNES species residing in the lake, Seqwater is currently assessing appropriate mitigation and vegetation management measures to reduce organic loading prior to the lake refilling. Proposed mitigation measures may include targeted vegetation management around the lake perimeter prior to refilling.
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5.3. Compliance Summary

5.3.1. Non-compliances Condition 20 and 23

Condition 14 requires notification of commencement of the action within 10 business days. This occurred on 13 Nov 2024 when the project entered the site-establishment / early works phase, which was primarily terrestrial works with limited vegetation clearing.

On 30 May 2025, the project again notified DCCEEW of the commencement of the action which aligned with the beginning of lake drawdown on 26 May 2025. The project has proceeded on the basis that 26 May 2025 was the official commencement of the action and compliance reporting period. Therefore, the timing of our annual audits (**Condition 23**) and reports (**Condition 20**) are structured to be in line with the later notification and not technically compliant with the earliest notification or timeline.

In line with the annual independent EPBC audit and advice from the auditor, the project proposes to continue with the annual independent audit and compliance report schedule for July of each year moving forward. There were no measurable impacts to MNES identified in regard to the notification administrative error. As The Controlling Action for the Six-Mile Creek EPBC referral primarily relates to impacts to aquatic MNES and the majority of monitoring & mitigation requirements in the Adaptive Management Plan are based around the lowering of the lake. As such the period of monitoring activities captured in the current audit and compliance report are more relevant to potential MNES impacts that if the reporting period had started in November 2024.

5.3.2. Non-compliances Condition 21 and 22

Between 28 January 2026 and 31 January 2026, dissolved oxygen (% saturation) at monitoring location DS01 (Six Mile Creek downstream of the spillway) exceeded the AMP high-trigger level (<36% saturation) for more than three consecutive monitoring events. Seqwater did not notify the Department following a water quality exceedance event that met the notification trigger specified within Table 3-2 of the approved AMP, namely:

"A summary report will be provided to regulatory agencies where monitoring indicates ongoing exceedances of any high trigger value for more than three consecutive monitoring events."

While the project implemented the required investigation, monitoring and management actions in accordance with the AMP Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP), notification to the Department was inadvertently not provided at that time.

Subsequently, Seqwater retrospectively provided notification of the event on 11 August 2026 to address the requirements of **Conditions 21 and 22**.

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6. APPENDIX

6.1. Appendix A – Adaptive Management Plan

Available on the project website: <https://www.seqwater.com.au/files/2026-06/LMDIP-05327-GNL-ENV-MPL-00002-Rev16-Adaptive%20Management%20Plan2.pdf>

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6.2. Appendix B- Clearing Map



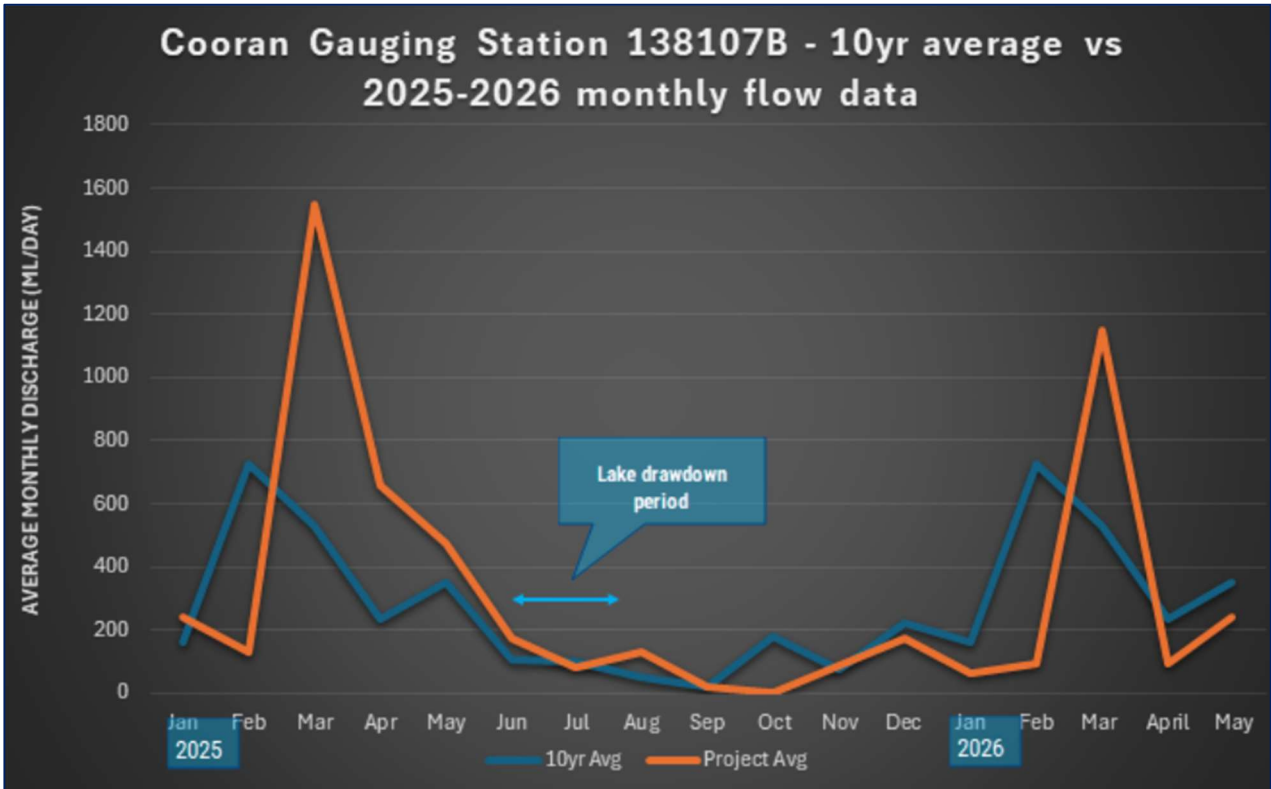
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6.3. Appendix C- Water Quality Summaries

6.3.1. Water Quantity

LMDIP regularly monitor the gauging station along Six Mile Creek at Cooran (138107B) to ensure flow regimes remain comparable to what’s considered normal. This gauging station is located approximately 20km downstream from Lake Macdonald. Figure 3 shows the average monthly flows throughout the project timeline compared to the 10yr average. Environmental flows are always maintained as per the Lake Macdonald Water License.

Figure 3: Comparing monthly average flows against the 10yr average - Cooran Gauging Station 138107B



The following graph gives an estimation of ML/day discharged downstream through the siphon system throughout the reporting period. This is based on an average of 62ML/day passing through each siphon pipe (Figure 4 and Figure 5).

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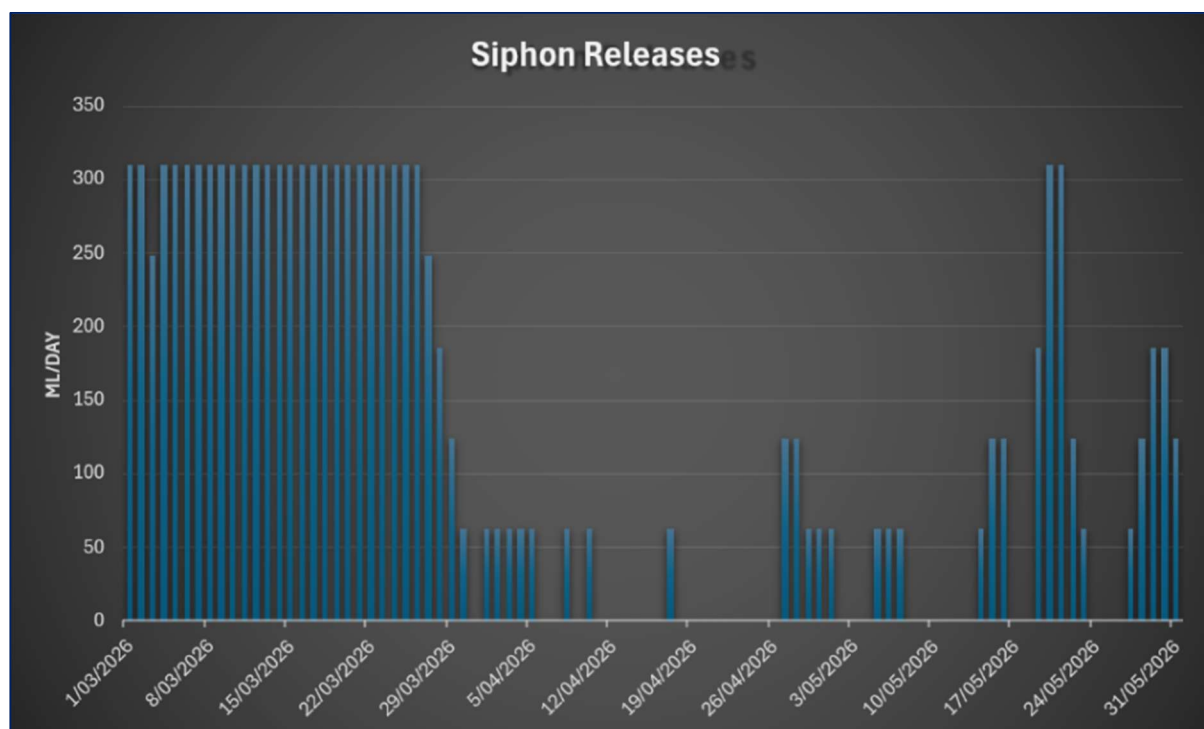


Figure 4: Discharge to Six Mile Creek (Siphons and Environmental Flows) (1 March to 31 May 2026)



Figure 5: Discharge to Six Mile Creek (Siphons and Environmental Flows) (1 December 2025 to 23 February 2026)

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6.3.2. Water Quality

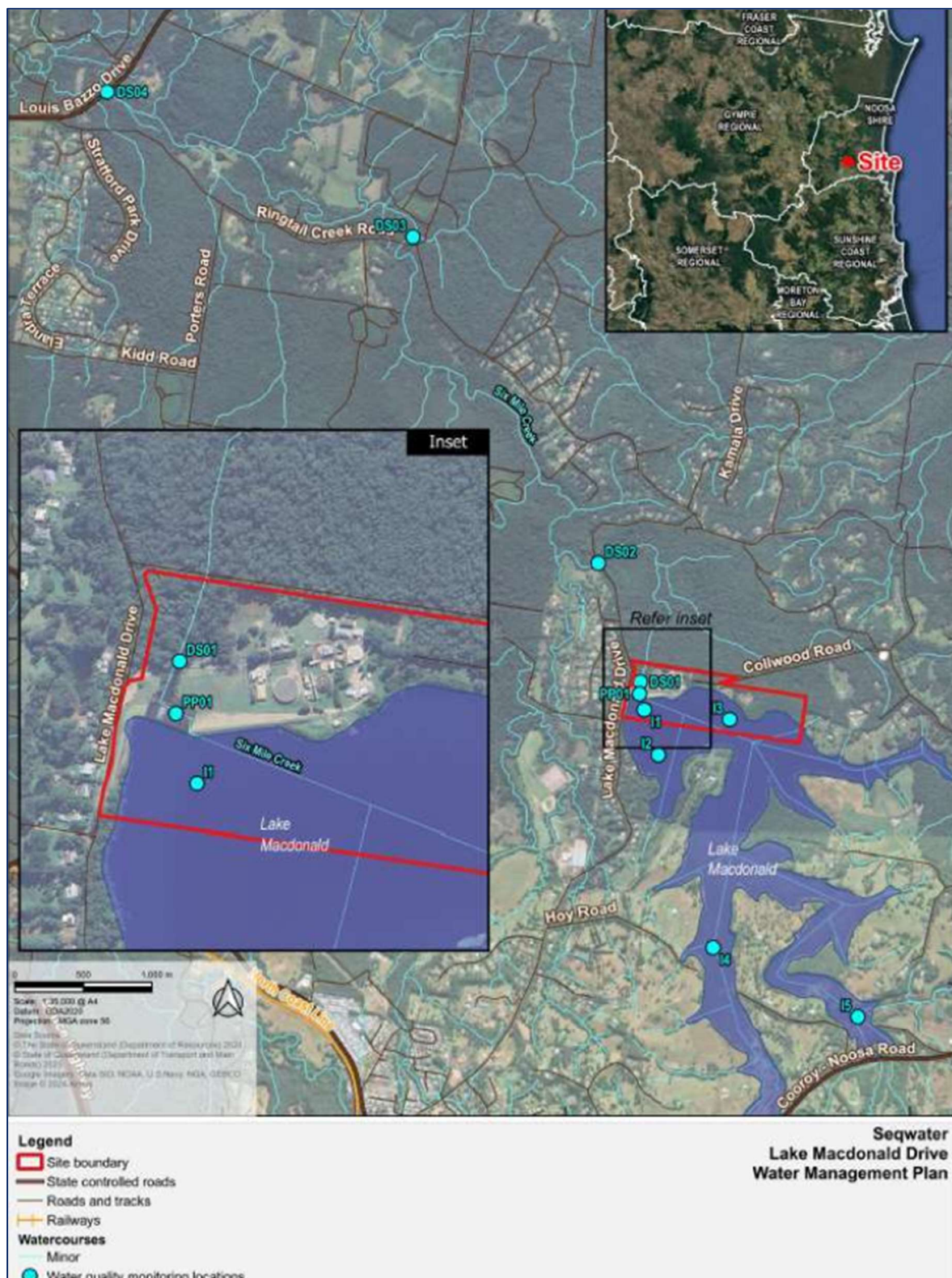


Figure 6: Water Quality Monitoring Locations

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Water quality monitoring is being conducted with a combination of real-time loggers, hand-held multi-parameter probe testing and laboratory analysis at the locations shown in Figure 6. Monitoring results were assessed against the nominated water quality objectives detailed in Table 5. Water quality threshold criteria have been taken from the F&FDMP.

Table 5: Water Quality Objectives (F&FDMP)

Water Quality Parameter	Unit	Investigation trigger value		Compliance target value	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Lake Macdonald (freshwater lakes/reservoirs)					
pH	log {H+}	6.1	6.9	6.1	8.0
Turbidity	NTU	-	<18.9	-	<25
Dissolved Oxygen	% saturation	<33	-	<20	-
Total suspended solids	mg/L	-	5	-	9
Total nitrogen	mg/L	-	0.059	-	0.78
Nitrate	mg/L	-	0.014	-	0.020
Nox	mg/L	-	0.011	-	0.040
Ammonia	mg/L	-	0.053	-	0.110
Total phosphorus	mg/L	-	0.034	-	0.048
Six Mile Creek (lowland freshwater)					
pH	log {H+}	5.9	7.10	5.9	8
Turbidity	NTU	-	<6.6	-	<50
Dissolved Oxygen	% saturation	<56	-	<36	-

6.3.3. Upstream Water Quality Monitoring

In situ water monitoring was conducted on 48 occasions across the reporting period as well as lab samples collected on 34 occasions, targeting surface sampling at locations I1 to I5 on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis at locations shown in Figure 6. This included 154 field monitoring events and 248 lab sampling events. The monitor located at I1 is a real time continuous water quality metre which relays readings to a web-based platform every hour. The monitor relays a recording to the web-based platform hourly. This section summarises the data for the upper reaches and the main body of the impoundment.

It is important to note that upstream water quality is representative of water flowing into the lake. The project has no direct impact on the upstream water quality; however indirect effects associated with drawdown of the lake may be observed. Most exceedances that occur in the upper reaches are likely attributed to the shallower depths and inputs from upstream sources. Table 6 shows how often the project water quality objectives were exceeded in the main body of the lake and Table 7 shows how often the project water quality objectives were exceeded in the upper reaches. Although exceedances of the high-trigger thresholds have been common across some parameters, there has been no evidence of fish in distress or fish kills within the lake since drawdown.

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Table 6: Summary of Upstream Water Quality Summary (Site I1-I3: Main body of the impoundment)

Parameter		DO%	NTU	pH	Ammonia	Nitrate	TP	TSS
New Criteria (post 18 Aug)	Low	33	18.9	6.1-6.9	0.053	0.0142	0.034	5
	high	20	25	6.1-8.0	0.11	0.02	0.048	9
Non-conform – low trigger	Count	0	15	26	35	4	27	26
	%	0%	10%	18%	36%	4%	28%	27%
Non-conform – high trigger	count	0	35	6	15	18	34	41
	%	0%	24%	4%	15%	18%	35%	42%

Table 7: Summary of Upstream Water Quality Summary (Sites I4 - I5: Upper reaches of the impoundment)

Parameter		DO%	NTU	pH	Ammonia	Nitrate	TP	TSS
New Criteria (post 18 Aug)	Low	33	18.9	6.1-6.9	0.053	0.0142	0.034	5
	high	20	25	6.1-8.0	0.11	0.02	0.048	9
Non-conform – low trigger	Count	0	20	28	8	0	11	13
	%	0%	20%	28%	14%	0%	20%	23%
Non-conform – high trigger	count	0	36	2	42	15	36	30
	%	0%	36%	2%	75%	27%	64%	54%

6.3.4. Downstream Water Quality

Downstream water monitoring was conducted on 51 occasions across the reporting period targeting surface sampling at locations DS01 to DS04 on a weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis at locations shown in Figure 6. This included 201 field monitoring events and 77 lab sampling events. The real-time monitor located at DS01 provides continuous readings to a web-based platform every hour

Table 8 represents the exceedances of water quality objectives for the downstream locations and Table 9 represents the water quality exceedances for the stilling basin.

The frequency of water quality monitoring in the stilling basin was reduced during this monitoring period in line with the F&FDMP and following consultation with the aquatic ecologist.

Initially the stilling basin was monitored daily for pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity daily. After five months, in April 2025, based on stable results, the monitoring frequency was reduced to weekly, unless the stilling basin was undergoing dewatering or a flooding event occurred, in which case daily monitoring has been maintained.

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Table 8: Downstream Water Quality Summary (DS01, DS02, DS03, DS04)

Parameter		DO%	Turbidity NTU	pH
Criteria	low	56	6.6	5.9-7.1
	high	36	50	5.9-8.0
Non-conform – low trigger	Count	40	147	86
	%	21%	73%	43%
Non-conform – high trigger	Count	7	0	1
	%	4%	0%	0.5%

Table 9: Downstream water quality summary for the stilling basin (PP01)

Parameter		DO%	NTU	pH	Ammonia	Nitrate	TP	TSS
Criteria	Low	33 - 20	18.9 - 25	6.1-6.9	0.053 – 0.11	0.0142 – 0.02	0.034 – 0.048	5 - 9
	High	<20	>25	6.1-8.0	>0.11	>0.02	>0.048	>9
Non-conform – low trigger	Count	0	7	3	3	0	3	3
	%	0%	7%	3%	23%	0%	23%	23%
Non-conform – high trigger	Count	0	38	18	2	5	0	3
	%	0%	39%	19%	15%	38%	0%	23%

6.3.5. Ammonia, Nitrate and Phosphate water quality trends over time

Figures 8, 9, 10 display the historical inclusive water quality trends at all monitoring locations.

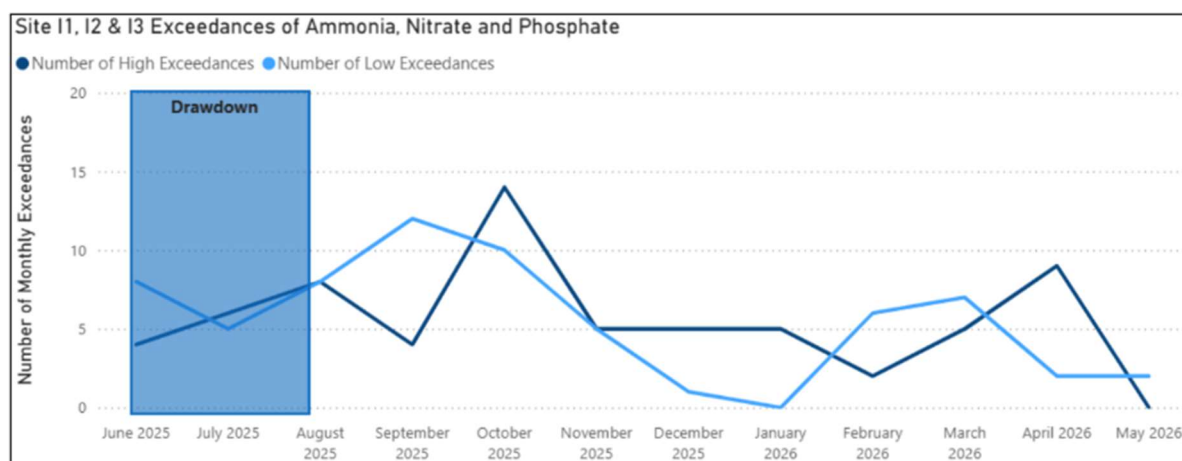


Figure 7: Number of exceedances of ammonia, nitrate and phosphate at the main body of the impoundment of Lake Macdonald (I1, I2 and I3)

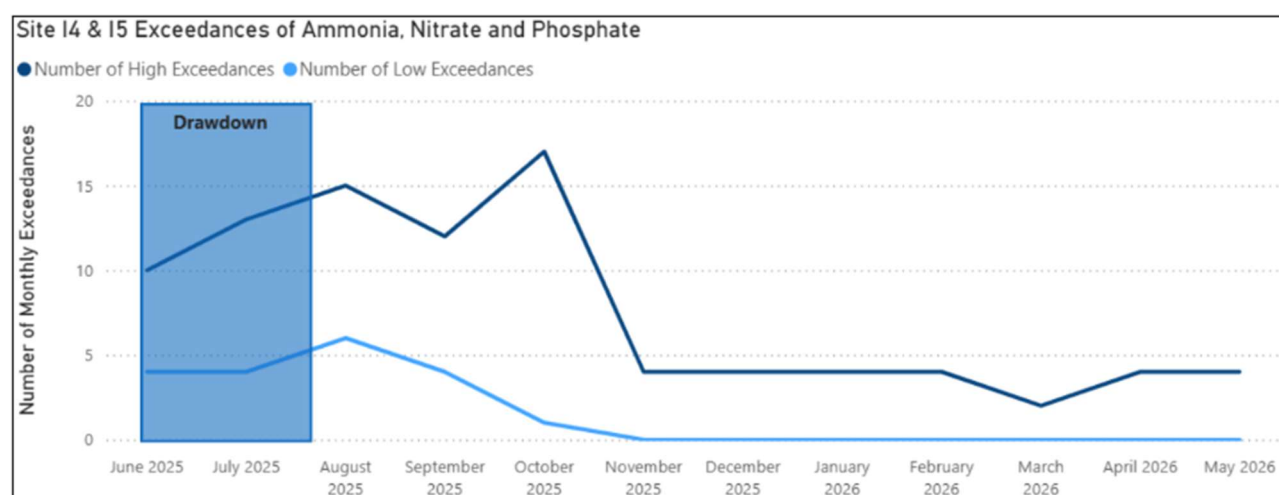


Figure 8: Number of exceedances of ammonia, nitrate and phosphate at the upper reaches of Lake Macdonald at sites I4 and I5

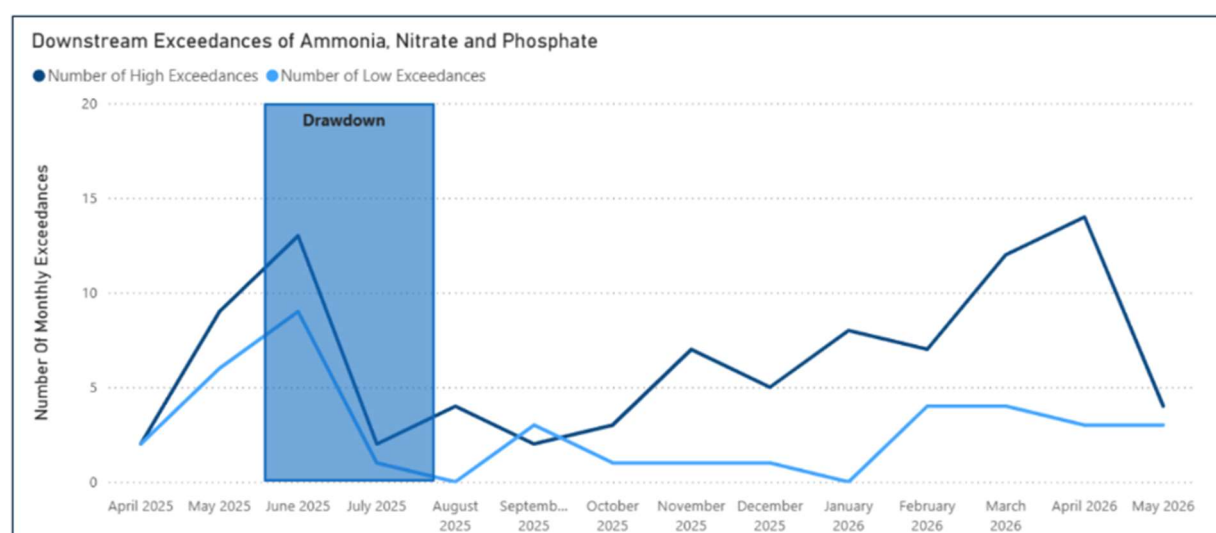


Figure 9: Number of exceedances of ammonia, nitrate and phosphate downstream at sites DS01, DS02, DS03 and DS04.

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6.3 Appendix D- Independent Review



9th October 2024

 Seqwater
 PO Box 328
 Ipswich Qld 4305
 Australia
 75 450 239 876
 Att: Nathan Carruthers

Dear Nathan,

ENDORSEMENT LETTER FOR THE AMENDED AMP (REV 9) FOR LAKE MACDONALD

Thank you for providing the amended Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for endorsement. I have conducted a brief review of both the AMP and the associated comment register. While I note that not all of my recommendations were fully or only partially incorporated, I am satisfied that the final AMP is fit for purpose and appropriately addresses the key objectives. Therefore, I am pleased to endorse the AMP in its current form.

Please let me know if any further input is required moving forward.

Yours faithfully,

 Dr Darren Fielder
 General Manager – Principal Consultant

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6.4 Appendix E- AMP Approval



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EPBC 2017/8078

Nathan Carruthers
 Senior Environmental Advisor
 Seqwater
 Nathan.Carruthers@seqwater.com.au

Approval of revised Adaptive Management Plan for Six Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade Project (2017/8078)

Dear Mr Carruthers

Thank you for your email dated 24 April 2025 to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department), seeking approval of the revised Adaptive Management Plan, in accordance with condition 26 of the Six Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade Project (2017/8078) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Officers of the department have advised me on the Adaptive Management Plan and the requirements of the conditions of the approval for this project. On this basis, and as a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Water (the Minister), I have decided to approve the Adaptive Management Plan – Lake Macdonald (Six Mile Creek) Dam Improvement Project, revision 14, dated 22 April 2025.

Now this plan has been approved, it must be implemented. To avoid potential ambiguity, now that the approved action has commenced and this revised plan has been approved, this approved plan must be implemented for all water drawdown activities for the duration of the life of the approval.

The approved plan must also be published in accordance with your conditions of approval.

Approval condition 27 for this project allows you (under certain circumstances) to implement revised plans without seeking approval from the Minister. If you require any advice on the process to follow should you choose this option, or whether to submit a revised plan for approval, please contact the officer below. For any revised plans submitted to the department, please provide a 'tracked changes' version of the plan. I also attach a fact sheet providing guidance on new or increased impact relating to changes to approved management plans under the EPBC Act.

As you are aware, the department has an active monitoring program which includes monitoring inspections, desktop document reviews and audits. Please ensure that you maintain accurate records of all activities associated with, or relevant to, the conditions of approval so that they can be made available to the department on request.

Should you require any further information please contact Alice Shields on +61 2 5162 1565 or by email to PostApproval@dcceew.gov.au.

DCCEEW.gov.au
 John Gorton Building - King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 Australia
 GPO Box 3090 Canberra ACT 2601 ABN: 63 573 932 849
 LET 510 v3.3

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Yours sincerely



Neil Millar
 A/g Director, Post Approvals (QLD, NT and SA)
 Environment Assessments (VIC, TAS) and Post Approvals Branch
 Date: 07/05/2025
 Attach: [New and increased impacts factsheet](#)

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6.5 Appendix F- AVEC Post clearance report

Available upon request

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6.6 Appendix G- Habitat Monitoring summary

A total of 4 habitat monitoring events occurred during the EPBC reporting period.

Monitoring event 1 - 1st June and 31st August 2025

Monitoring event 2 – 1st September and 30th November 2025.

Monitoring event 3 – 1st December 2025 to 28th February 2026

Monitoring event 4 – 1st March 2026 to 31 May 2026

Date	Activity	AMP Requirement	Duration	Notes
16 May 2025	Water quality investigation	Seqwater request to document lake health and effectiveness of de-stratification unit	1 day	Nutrients testing at five sites. Water quality profiling within 13 locations to assess the effectiveness of current de stratification unit within dam
22-24 May 2025	Fish survey within three Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04). Fyke nets and electrofishing. Giant Barred frog habitat baseline assessments.	Section 5 Table 5.2	3 Days	Pre drawdown fish survey. Post drawdown survey to be completed in July.
26-30 May 2025	Siphon commissioning phase	N/A	4 days	Handed over to Seqwater Ops on 30th June.
Weekly site visits during June 2025	Drawdown habitat sites upstream control sites (SMCUS01 and CU02) and downstream Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04). Giant barred frog habitat assessments.	Section 6.3 (Table 6.1)	Prior to draw down and ongoing weekly during draw down until draw down is complete.	
7 June 2025	Relocation site survey	Section 5.5.6	1 day/six days data analysis	

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Date	Activity	AMP Requirement	Duration	Notes
18 June 2025	Removal of platypus camera traps (baseline data collection finished)	Section 5.5.3	1 day	
24 June 2025 17 June 2025	Inspection of lake margins for fish stranding and water quality monitoring.	Section 5 Table 5.2	1 day	
24 June 2025	Resetting of camera traps for platypus.	Section 5 Table 5.2	1 day	
3-4 July 2025	Fish survey within three Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04) using electrofishing. Giant Barred frog habitat baseline assessments.	Section 5 Table 5.2	2 days	Post drawdown fish survey and frog habitat assessment
23 June 2025 to 11 July 2025	Fish Salvage and relocation	Section 5	Initial fish salvage undertaken on 23rd June (1x electrofishing boat and 1 x fish transport trailer) Full salvage operation (2 x electrofishing boats, 1 x fyke net boat and 3 x fish transport trailers)	
18-21 July 2025	eDNA platypus sampling	Section 5	1.5 days	

Date	Activity	AMP Requirement	Duration	Notes
25-26th August 2025	Habitat site assessments upstream control sites	Section 6.3 (Table 6.1)	Quarterly (3 days per event)	Up and downstream of the project site
8-9th September 2025	Fish condition within lake	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly (2-day event)	Within Lake Macdonald.
12th September 2025	Download of platypus camera traps	Section 5.5.3	Quarterly (1 – 2-day event)	
Monthly- September to October 2025	Water quality investigation	To document lake health	1 day/ month	Nutrients testing at 5– 10 sites. In-situ water quality profiling also undertaken within sites
13-14th October 2025	eDNA platypus sampling	Section 5	Quarterly (1-2 days)	Water samples collected from various sites.
14th October 2025	Fish salvage and relocation undertaken within tailwater pool	Section 5	As required (1 day)	Fish salvage due to fish becoming isolated in tailwater pond from downstream of 6 mile creek due to low rainfall.
18th – 20th November 2025	Habitat site assessments upstream control sites (SMCUS01 and CU02) downstream Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04) and lake site	Section 6.3 (Table 6.1)	Quarterly (2-day event)	Up and downstream of the project site
12th – 13th November 2025	Fish condition within lake	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly (2-day event)	Within Lake Macdonald.
Various	Camera trap analysis from last quarter	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly (5 days)	Last quarter data presented within this quarterly report

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Date	Activity	AMP Requirement	Duration	Notes
Early December 2025	Platypus camera download	Section 5.5.3	Quarterly (1 day)	
January 2026	Habitat site assessments upstream control sites (SMCUS01 and CU02) downstream Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04) and lake site	Section 6.3 (Table 6.1)	Quarterly	Reporting within this quarterly report
Various	Camera trap analysis from last quarter	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly	Last quarter data presented within this quarterly report
January 2026	eDNA platypus sampling	Section 5	Quarterly	Presented within this quarterly report
January – 26 February 2026	Fish salvage and relocation undertaken within coffer dam	Section 5	As required	Presented within this quarterly report
January 2026	Fish condition within lake	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly	Reporting within this quarterly report
April 2026	Habitat site assessments upstream control sites (SMCUS01 and CU02) downstream Six Mile Creek sites (SMCDS01, SMCDS02, SMCDS04) and lake site	Section 6.3 (Table 6.1)	Quarterly	April 26
April 26	Download of platypus camera traps	Section 5.5.3	Quarterly	April 26
May 2026	Camera trap analysis from last quarter	Section 5 Table 5.2	Quarterly	May 26
April 2026	eDNA platypus sampling	Section 5	Quarterly	April 26
March – April 2026	Fish salvage and relocation undertaken within coffer dam	Section 5	As required	March – 26 April 26
April 2026	Fish condition within lake	Section 5 - Table 5.2	Quarterly	April 26

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6.1. Appendix H- Fish salvage figures

Family	Fish species	Common Name	Protected status	Lake Macdonald (7.07.2025-11.07.2025)	Spillway Tailwater Pond (14.10.2025)	Stilling Basin (22.01.2026-11.02.2026)	Spillway Tailwater Pond (02.03.2026)	Spillway Tailwater Pond (30.03.2026)	Stilling Basin (31.03.2026-2.04.2026)
Small-bodied fish species									
Ambassidae	<i>Ambassis agassizii</i>	Olive perchlet	Not listed	-	114	3331	170	-	-
Atherinidae	<i>Craterochalus stercusmuscarum fulvus</i>	Flyspecked hardyhead	Not listed	-	50	1864	85	300	242
Eletronidae	<i>Philynodon macrostomas</i>	Dwarf flathead gudgeon	Not listed	-	-	1	-	-	-
	<i>Mogumda adspersa</i>	Purple spotted gudgeon	Not listed	-	-	1	-	-	-
	<i>Hypseleotris sp.</i>	Carp gudgeon	Not listed	-	2860	527	363	1170	1159
Melanotaeniidae	<i>Melanotaenia duboulayi</i>	Rainbow fish	Not listed	-	33	24	128	0	0
Large-bodied fish species relocatable									
Anguillidae	<i>Anguilla reinhardtii</i>	long finned eel	Not listed	155	38	77	11	17	9
Clupeidae	<i>Nematalosa erebi</i>	Boney bream	Not listed	-	127	3869	38	685	657
Neoceratodontidae	<i>Neoceratodus forsteri</i>	Australian lungfish	Vulnerable	-	-	-	-	2	-
Osteoglossidae	<i>Scleropages leichardtii</i>	Saratoga	Not listed	-	13	-	-	2	-
Percichthyidae	<i>Macquaria novemaculeata</i>	Bass	Not listed	-	0	2	-	25	-
	<i>Maquaria ambigua</i>	Golden perch	Not listed	-	7	-	6	3	-
	<i>Maccullochella mariensis</i>	Mary river cod	Endangered	1	-	-	-	1	-
	<i>Percalates novemaculeata</i>	Australian bass	Not listed	253	15	-	-	-	-
	<i>Tandanus tandanus</i>	Freshwater catfish	Not listed	229	80	84	13	25	41

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Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Project

Annual Compliance Report Six-Mile Creek Dam Safety Upgrade (EPBC 2017_8078) 2025 - 2026

Terapontidae	<i>Amniataba percoides</i> <i>Leiopotherapon unicolor</i>	Banded gunter Spangled perch	Not listed Not listed	-	57	242	-	67	545
				-	10	-	1	63	-
Turtle									
Chelidae	<i>Emydura macquarii krefftii</i> <i>Chelodina expansa</i>	Krefftt's turtle Long neck turtle	Not listed Not listed	-	1	36	-	-	13
				-	-	3	-	-	-
Pest Fish Species									
Poeciliidae	<i>Xiphophorus maculatus</i>	Platy	Introduced	-	-	3	-	-	-
Chichlidae	<i>Orochromosis mossambicus</i>	Tilapia	Introduced	-	56	-	27	6	-
Summary									
Total fish				638	3460	10025	874	2366	2653
Total Turtles				-	1	39	-	-	13
Totals				638	3461	10064	874	2366	2666

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