

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

Overview



Seqwater ensures a safe, secure and reliable water supply to more than three million people across South East Queensland. We manage the dams and catchments which provide the region with drinking and irrigation water.

In 2012-13, as part of our ongoing monitoring, we commissioned an independent assessment of our 26 regulated dams. This assessment included a review of the condition of our dams and their compliance with the latest standards based on the recently completed studies and monitoring data.

The assessment has identified a program of work needed to ensure our dams continue to meet the required standards and the Queensland guidelines. Our Dam Improvement Program will see us upgrade some dams and reduce the water levels of others until such time as upgrade works can be completed.

Improving our dams is a rolling program. In recent years we have upgraded Lake Manchester (2008), Borumba (2008), Hinze (2011), North Pine (2012) and Ewen Maddock (2012).

Assessing our dams

Dams are long-life assets and many of our dams were built in the 1960s and the 1970s. Key changes impacting on the compliance with guidelines since our dams were built or last upgraded include:

- significant population growth downstream of our dams since they were built
- advances in dam design and development of consistent methodologies for assessment
- the latest estimates of extreme rainfall
- data from the major flood events in 2011 and 2013 and updated flood modelling
- improved understanding of earthquake probabilities and loads.

The assessment has increased our understanding of how these factors affect our dams and identified a program of investigations and upgrades to be undertaken in the coming years to ensure our dams continue to perform well while supplying drinking and irrigation water to South East Queensland.

Improving our dams

Improvements to our dams have been prioritised to ensure a staged work program that is scoped and scheduled to ensure security of water supply while delivering best value for money.

Investigations are being undertaken to confirm the need, scope and timing of works.

Dams identified for investigation and potential upgrade include: Ewen Maddock Stage 2, Lake Macdonald (Sunshine Coast), Sideling Creek (Brisbane North), Bill Gunn (Lockyer), Leslie Harrison (Redlands), Moogerah and Maroon (Scenic Rim).

Our actions will be different at each dam. You can view fact sheets about each dam involved in the Dam Improvement Program at www.seqwater.com.au/damimprovement

Keeping you informed

You can keep up-to-date with program progress on our website or subscribe to an e-updates to have the latest information emailed to you.

For more information:

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