

Seqwater Dam Improvement Program

e-update



September 2017

Latest news

Since our last update, Seqwater has completed further investigations and surveys to help refine the design and construction methodology for the upgrade and better inform the approvals and procurement processes. As a part of our geotechnical investigations, a series of new boreholes were drilled mostly upstream of the existing spillway from a barge. Laboratory testing and analysis of the results provided greater insight into the characteristics of the rock and soil beneath the dam to inform our cost estimates.



A detailed topographical survey and service location for the proposed footprint of the dam upgrade has also been completed, adding to our detailed design planning.

Have you ever wondered what each stage of planning a dam upgrade involves? [Click here to watch how it works.](#)

Timing

The final design of the upgrade is expected to be complete around mid-2018, with construction set to begin mid-2019.

Sunshine Coast dam levels

Seqwater is closely watching dam levels across the Sunshine Coast after two consecutive poor wet seasons and record low inflows in the region's largest dam Baroon Pocket Dam last summer. A number of projects are underway to secure water supply for the Sunshine Coast and prepare the region for the possibility of a drought. In July, the Ewen Maddock Water Treatment Plant was brought back online, with a further seven key water infrastructure projects either complete or underway to improve the capacity of the SEQ Water Grid to move water from the central Brisbane region to supplement parts of the northern region. These improvements will help to conserve Sunshine Coast dams when we need to.

We will continue to plan for the future upgrade of Lake Macdonald Dam. However the construction phase of the project, which includes a temporary lowering of the lake, will not proceed if our drinking water catchments for the Sunshine Coast are in drought. The current water level in Lake Macdonald (81% on 19/09/2017) is the result of low inflows from rainfall in the catchment and is not related to the upgrade.

The forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology indicates the likelihood of another dry, hot summer, although it is also forecasting the potential for above average rainfall this spring for South East Queensland.

Noosa Botanic Gardens

Seqwater is pleased to be working with Noosa Council to formally transfer the ownership of the land for the Noosa Botanic Gardens to council. The process should be complete by the end of 2017 and will support council's Botanic Gardens Masterplan. For more information, visit yoursay.noosa.qld.gov.au.





Seqwater Biosecurity Officer explaining how classified weeds in Lake Macdonald Dam are managed at the 2017 Noosa Festival of Water held at the Noosa Botanic Gardens

Young people learning about the combined impact of human activities on waterways and drinking water catchments at the amphitheatre during the Festival of Water

About the upgrade

Lake Macdonald Dam is one of a number of dams identified for an upgrade over the next six years. Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program is about keeping our dams compliant with the latest industry standards and meeting the current [Queensland Dam Safety Guidelines](#). As a part of the preferred option, Seqwater intends to build a new 'zig zag' or labyrinth spillway. The new spillway will enable the dam to safely pass large floods due to the additional surface area of the 'zig zag' crest.

Contact us

We welcome your feedback, email communications@seqwater.com.au, phone 1800 771 497 to contact us. Visit seqwater.com.au/damimprovement to find out more information.

